

Satellite Data for Air Quality

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Outline for the presentation

Introduction

- The global data gap and the role of NASA in air quality measurement

Satellite Data for Air Quality Applications

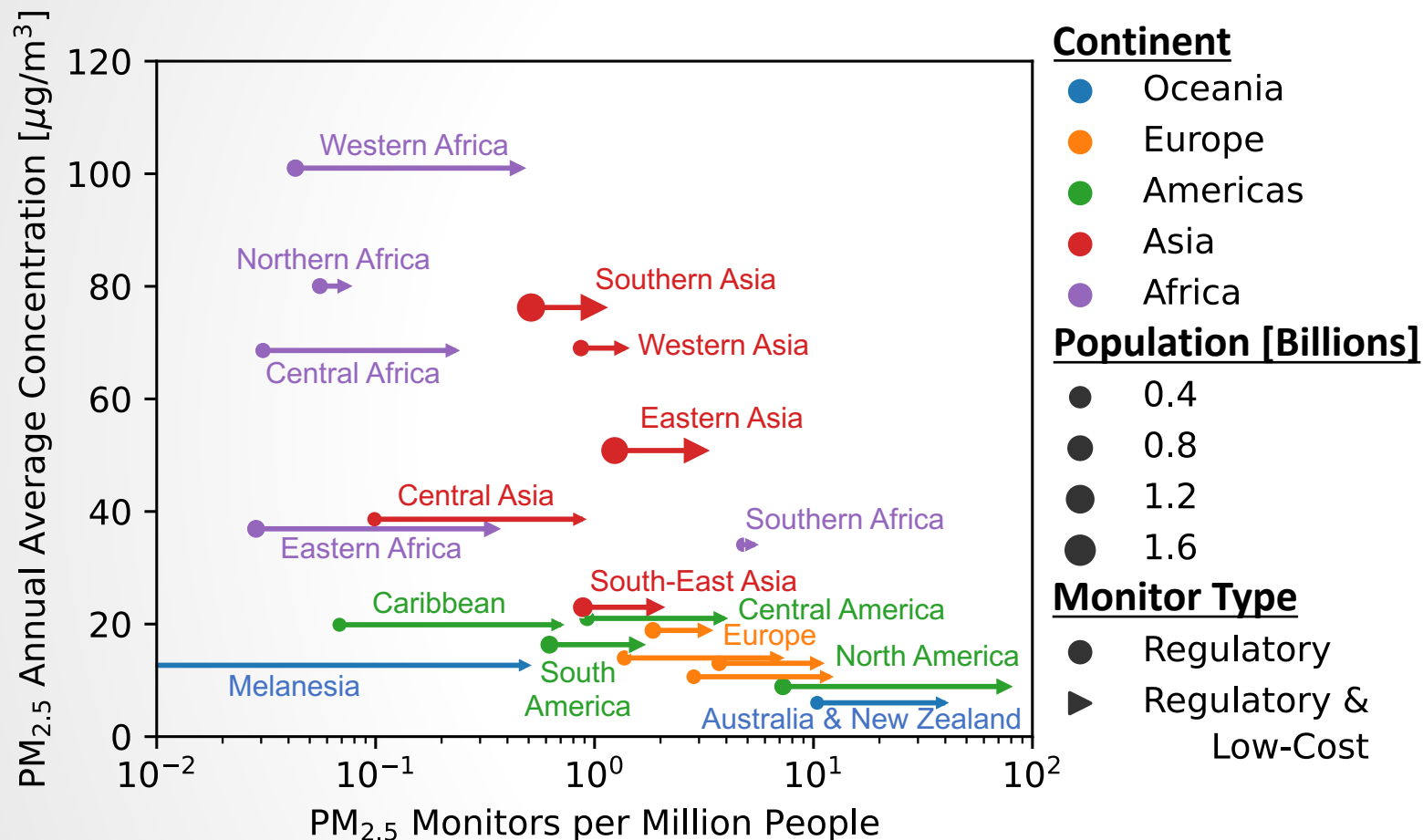
- Basic concepts: remote sensing, orbits, resolution, data processing levels
- Aerosols: aerosol optical depth, MODIS, VIIRS, EUMETSET, MAIA, PACE
- Trace Gases: OMI, TROPOMI, Ozone, NO₂, Formaldehyde, SO₂, CO, Methane

Applications involving satellite data

- Relationship of satellite data with surface concentrations
- Global air quality modeling and forecasting with NASA GEOS-CF
- Multi-source data fusion for sub-city-scale air quality

Data Access, Visualization, and Training Resources

Global in-situ air quality data are sparse



Many regions (especially Africa & Asia) feature high PM_{2.5} concentration but low per-capita PM_{2.5} monitor density, leading to **poor AQ data coverage**.

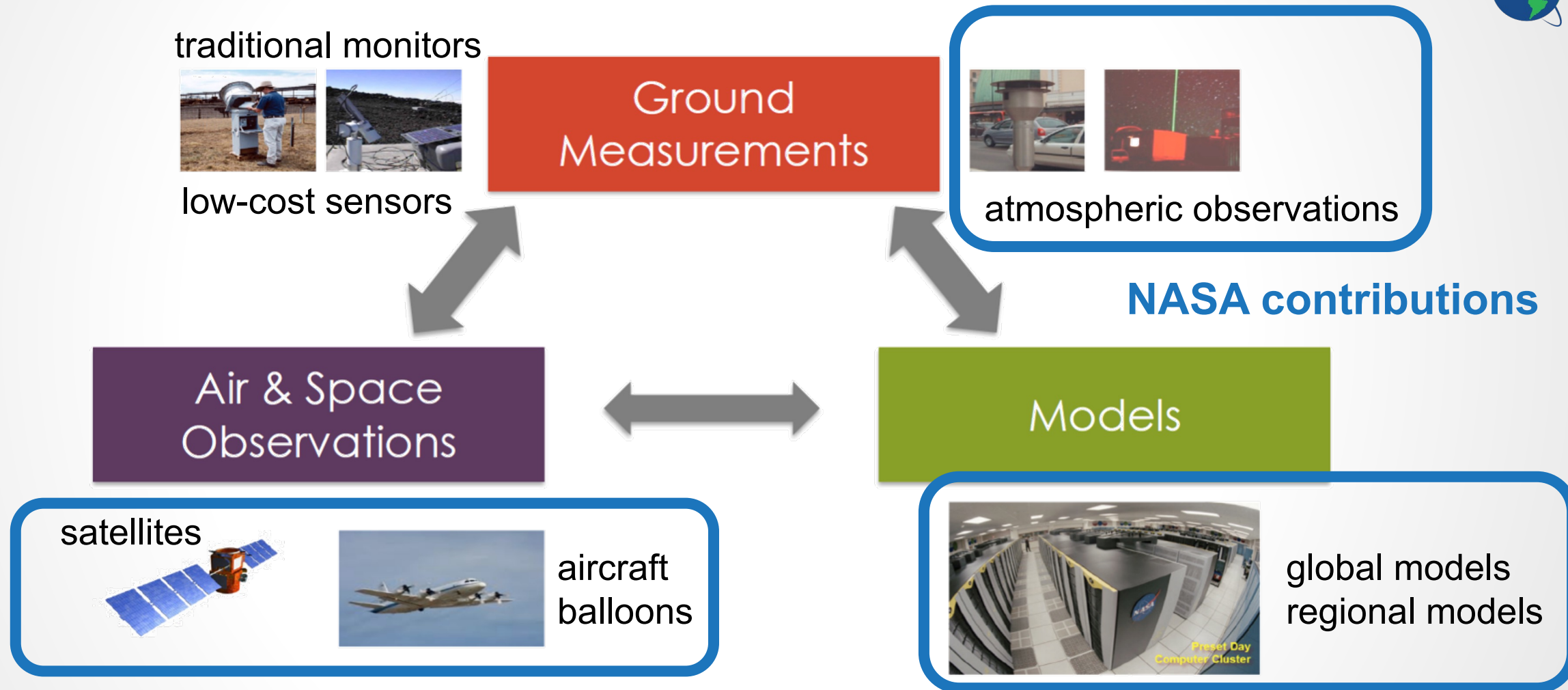
Including low-cost sensors **increases per-capita AQ monitor density by up to an order of magnitude** in several major regions.

This highlights the need to integrate **openly accessible in-situ AQ data** with globally available **model and remote sensing data**.

Source: Malings et al. (2020). "Application of low-cost fine particulate mass monitors to convert satellite AOD to surface concentrations in North America and Africa." *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*. DOI: 10.5194/amt-13-3873-2020.

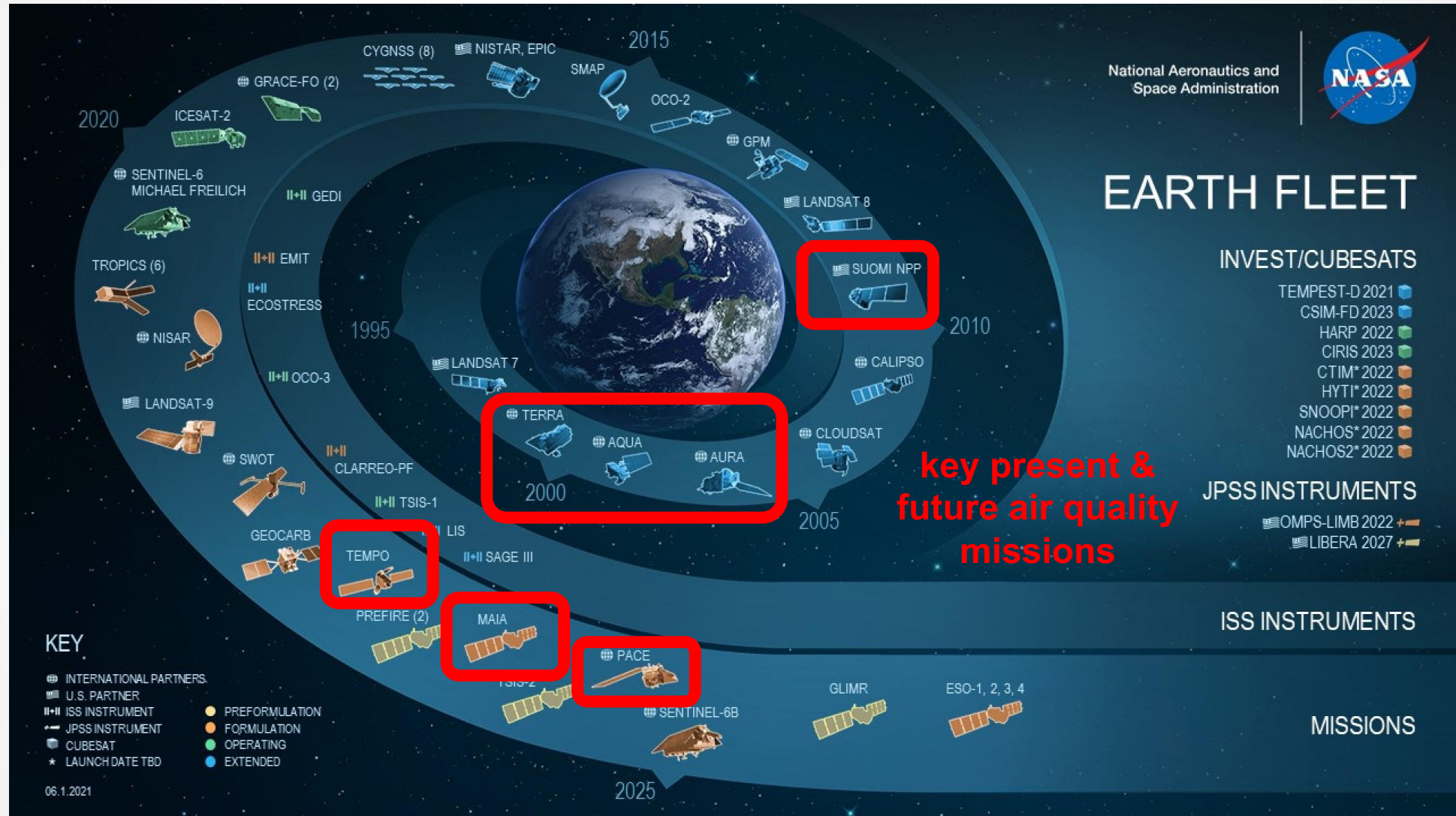
Updated analysis based on open air quality data available from openAQ.org

Sources of air quality information



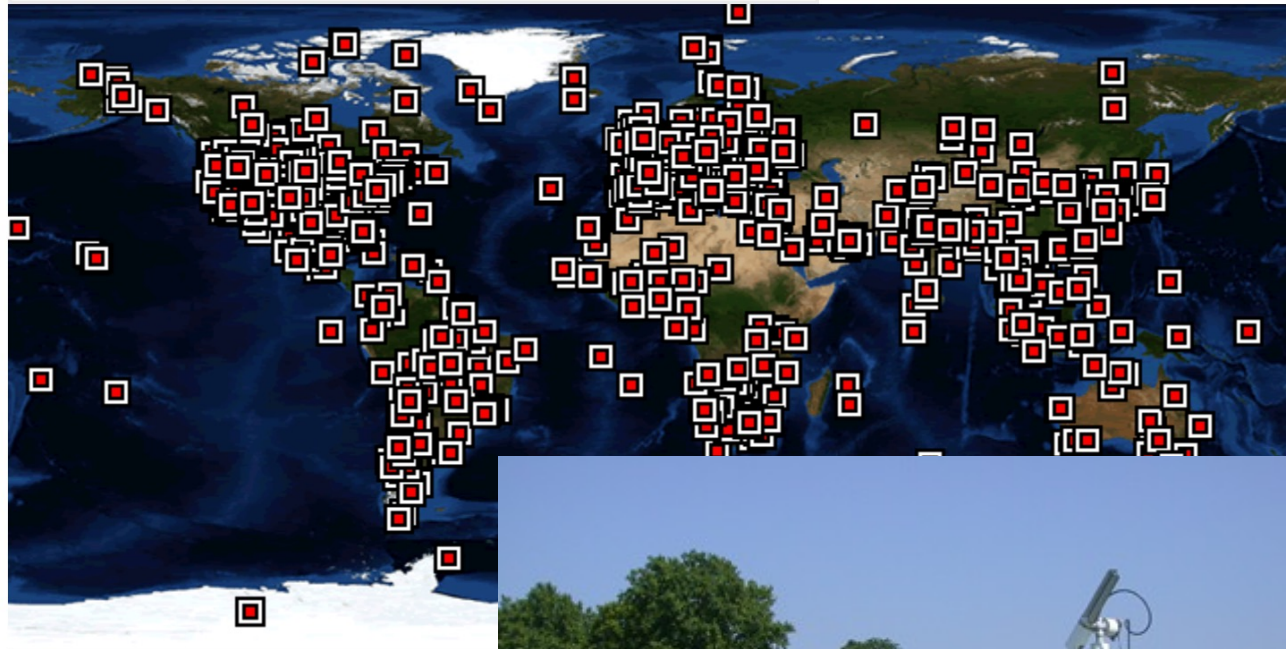
Source: Gupta, P.; Follette-Cook, M. (2018). Satellite Remote Sensing of Air Quality. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-satellite-remote-sensing-air-quality>

Satellite instruments and retrievals



Source: NASA Earth Science <https://science.nasa.gov/earth-science>

Ground-based atmospheric column observations



AERONET
aerosol optical depth
(relevant to PM)

Source: <https://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



Source: <https://pandora.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



PANDORA
atmospheric gases
(NO₂, Ozone)



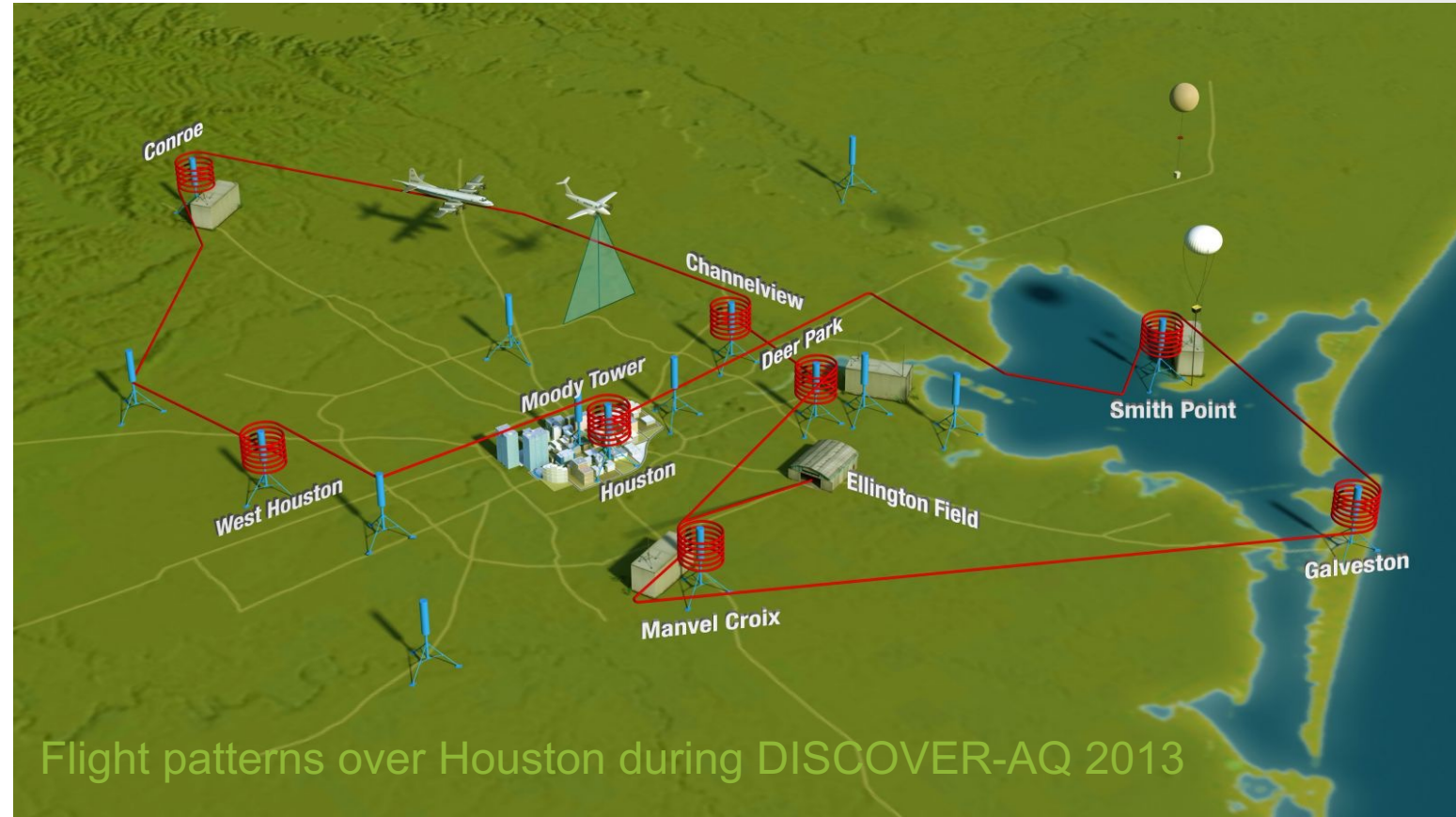
Airborne air quality campaigns

Typically, these campaigns gather data to improve satellite retrieval algorithms and models.



Instruments aboard NASA DC-8 Aircraft
(photo credit: Pedro Campuzano-Jost)

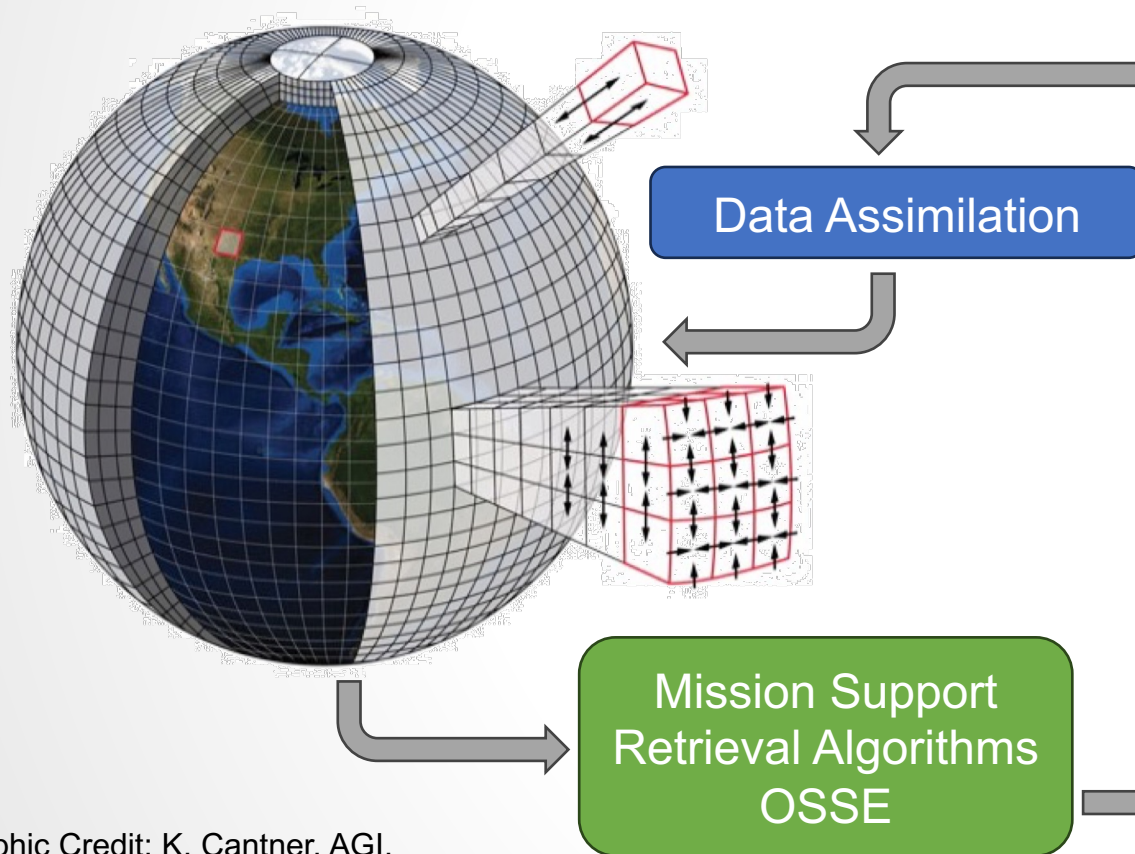
Source: <https://espo.nasa.gov/firex-aq/content/FIREX-AQ>



Source: NASA LARC DISCOVER-AQ campaign webpage
<https://www-air.larc.nasa.gov/missions/discover-aq/discover-aq.html>

NASA Global Modeling & Assimilation Office (GMAO)

The **GMAO** uses **computer models** and **data assimilation** to enhance NASA's program of **Earth Observations**.



Source: NASA Earth Science <https://science.nasa.gov/earth-science>

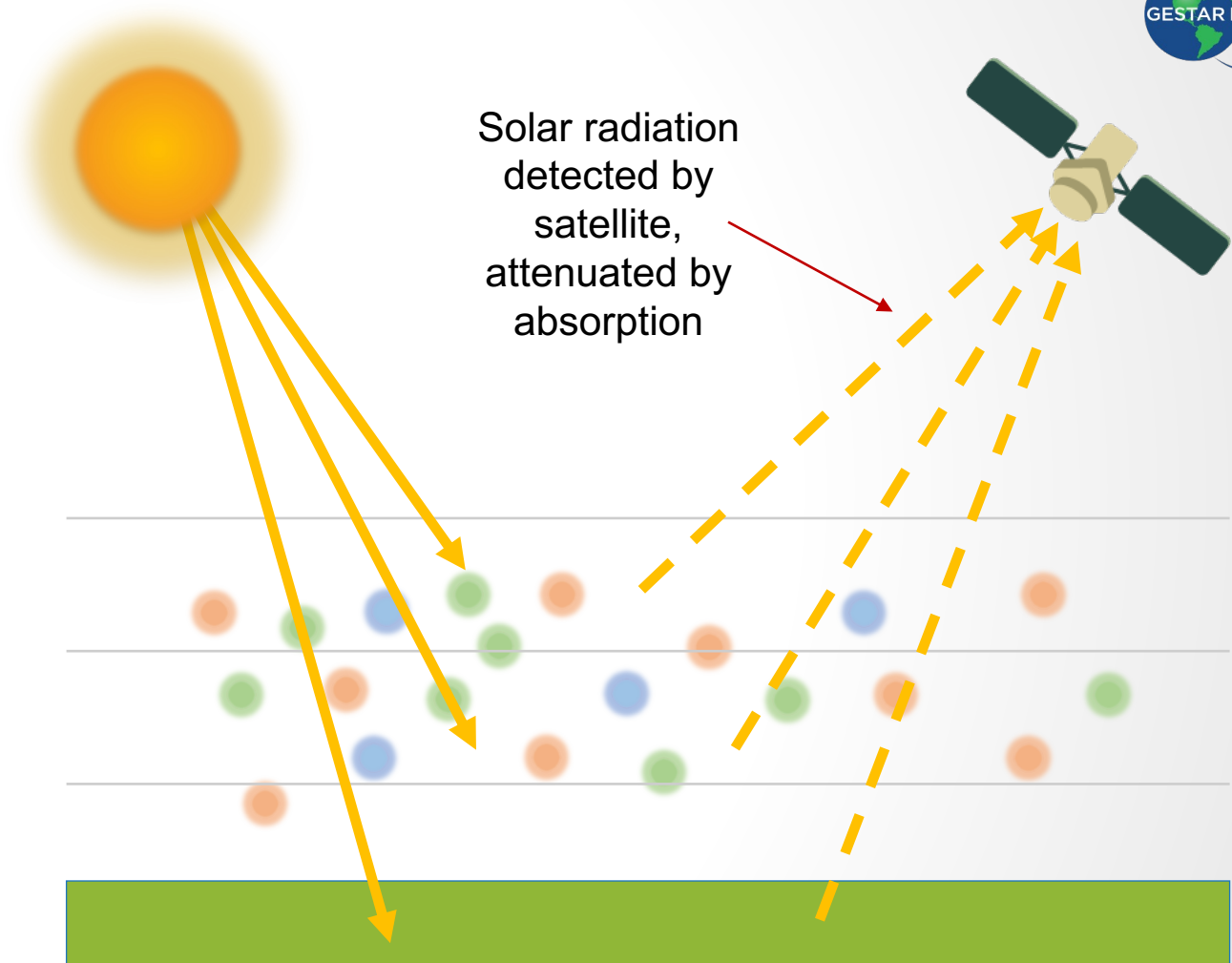
Graphic Credit: K. Cantner, AGI.
<https://wxguys.ssec.wisc.edu/2019/03/04/models/>



Satellite Data for Air Quality Basic Concepts

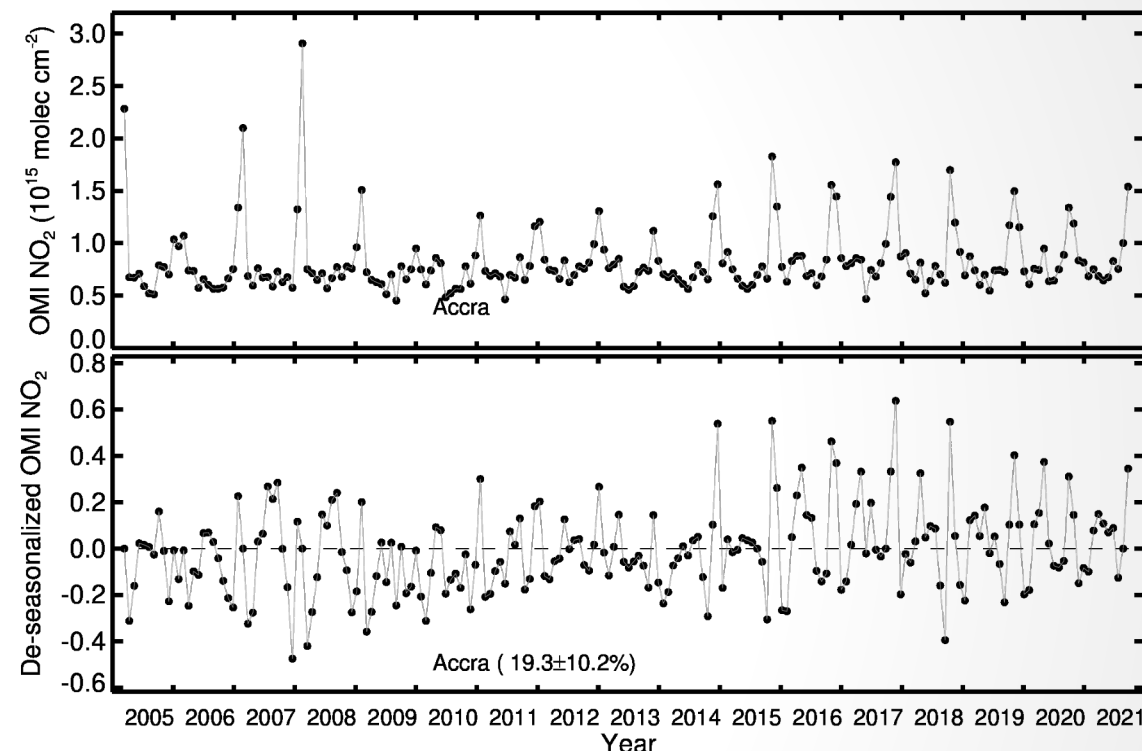
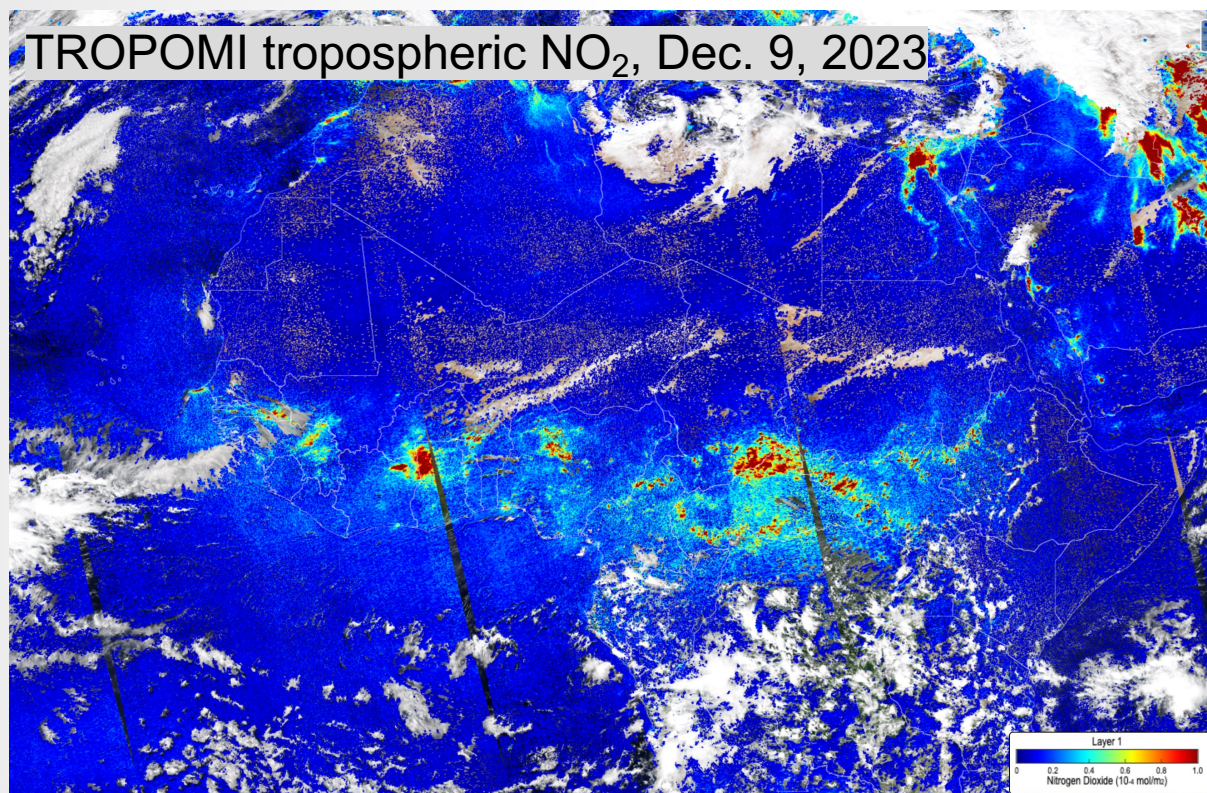
Basic principles of remote sensing

- Satellites typically detect **solar radiation** backscattered from the Earth.
- Retrieval algorithms use physical principles to infer **geophysical quantities** from this data, such as:
 - **aerosol optical depth** for all aerosols in the atmosphere, using visible light.
 - **trace gas total column density** using the “spectral fingerprints” of many gases.
- Usually, there is little information on the **vertical distribution** of aerosols or trace gases, although some limb view or active sensors can do this.



Source: Gupta, P.; Follette-Cook, M.; Strobe, S.; Malings, C. (2023). ARSET - NASA Air Quality-Focused Remote Sensing for EPA Applications. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET). <http://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-nasa-air-quality-focused-remote-sensing-epa-applications>

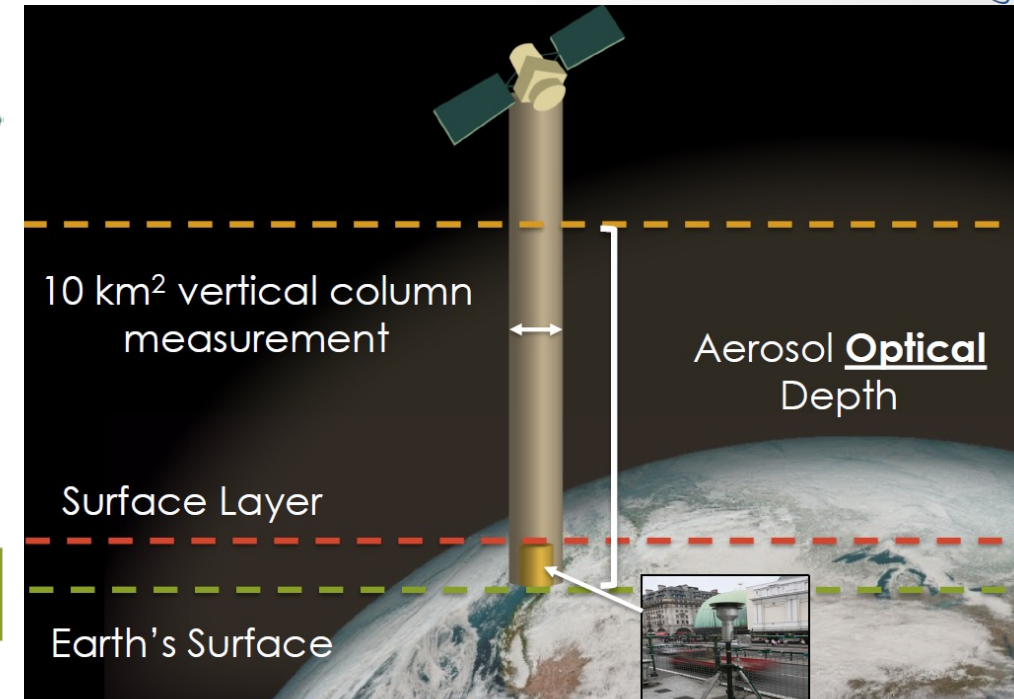
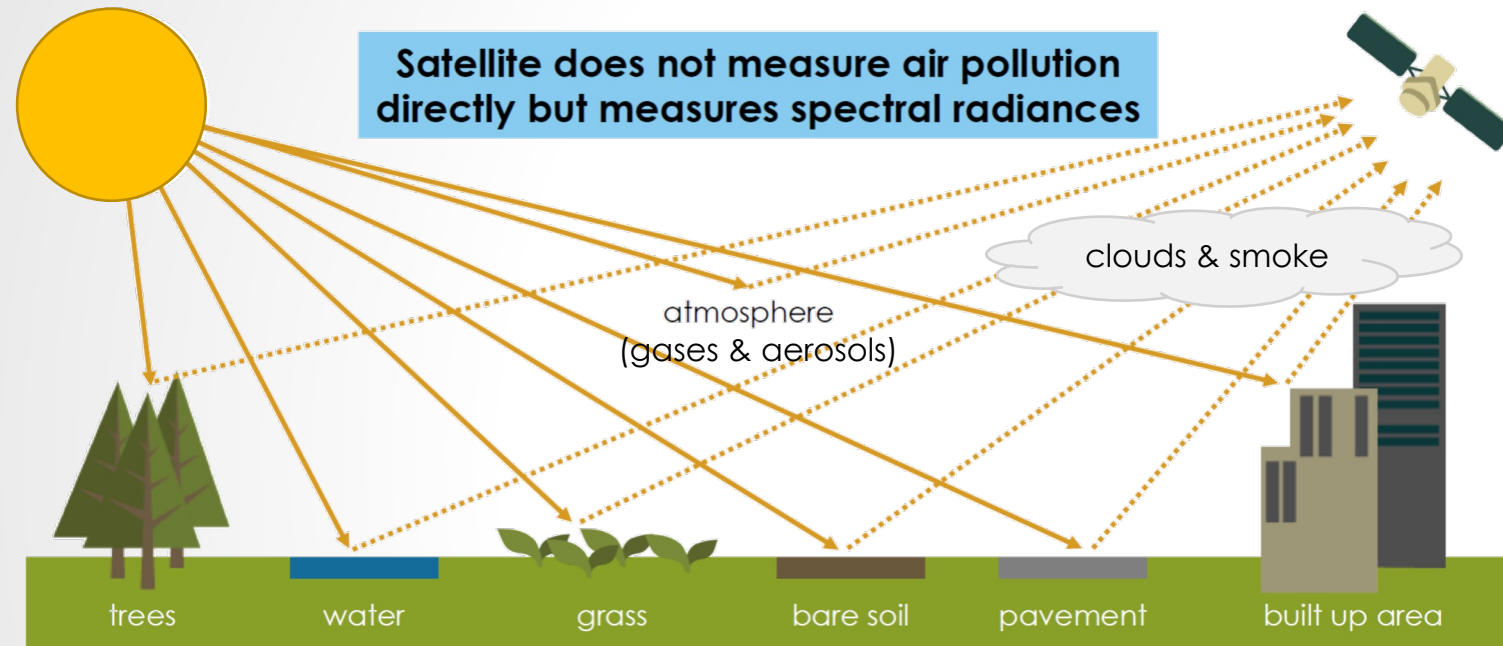
What satellite data CAN do for air quality



- **Examine a large area:** where are the hotspots? how is long-range transport happening?
- **Track changes over time:** how much has the average concentration over an area changed over time?
- **A picture is worth a million datapoints:** Anyone can understand a satellite photo of a smoke plume.

Sources: NOAA JSTAR Mapper website <https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/mapper/>
NASA GSFC Nitrogen Dioxide Trends for World Cities <https://airquality.gsfc.nasa.gov/no2/world>

What satellite data **CANNOT** do for air quality



- **See at night:** satellites measure the properties of reflected sunlight passing through the atmosphere.
- **See through clouds:** most satellite measurements are blocked by cloud cover.
- **See what is happening at “nose level”:** satellites measure quantities in the whole atmosphere.
- **See at different times of day:** polar-orbiting satellites will observe a location once per day.

Source: Gupta, P.; Follette-Cook, M. (2018). Satellite Remote Sensing of Air Quality. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-satellite-remote-sensing-air-quality>

Some common satellite data terms

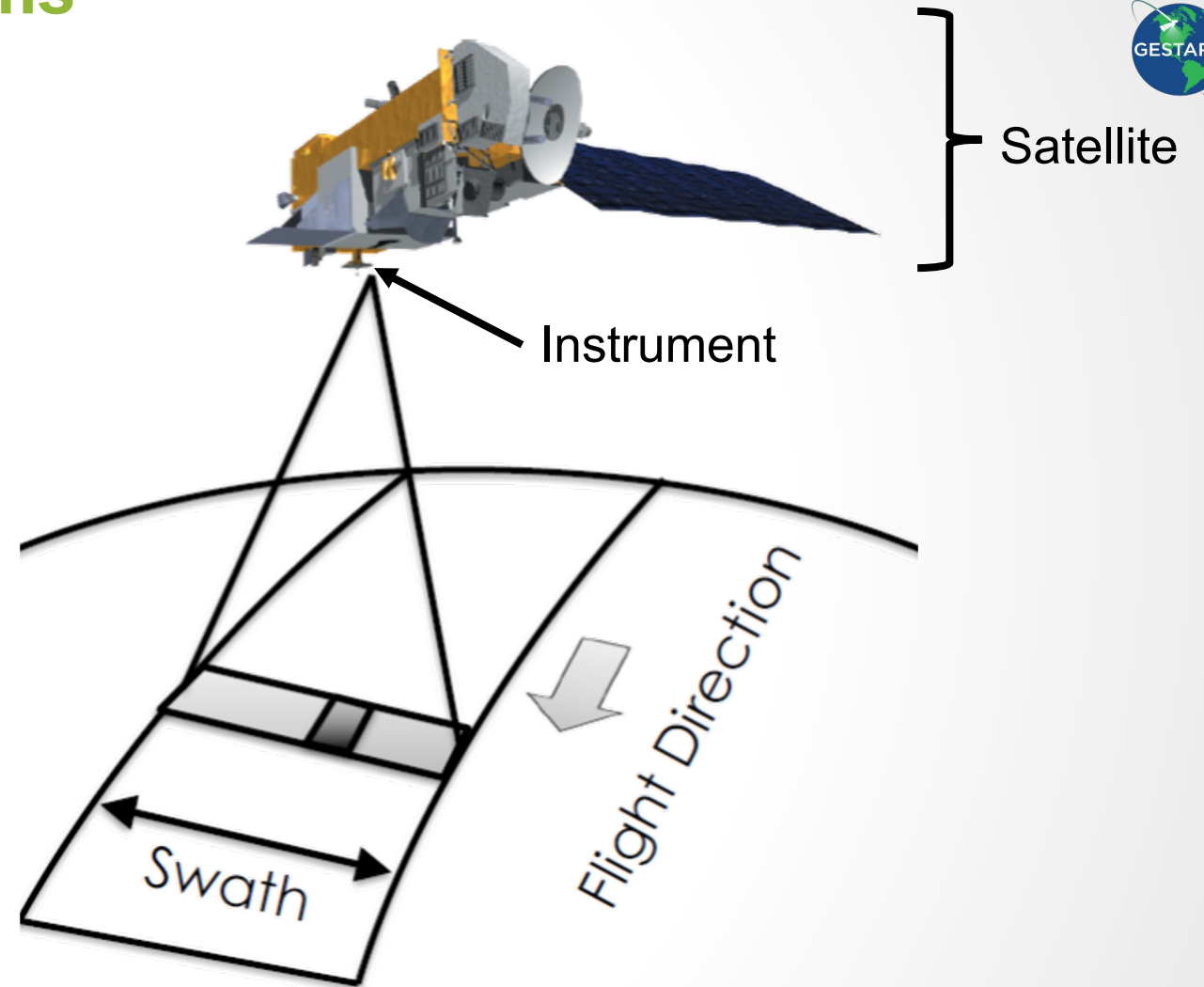
- Satellite v. Instrument



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-inside-look-how-nasa-measures-air-pollution>

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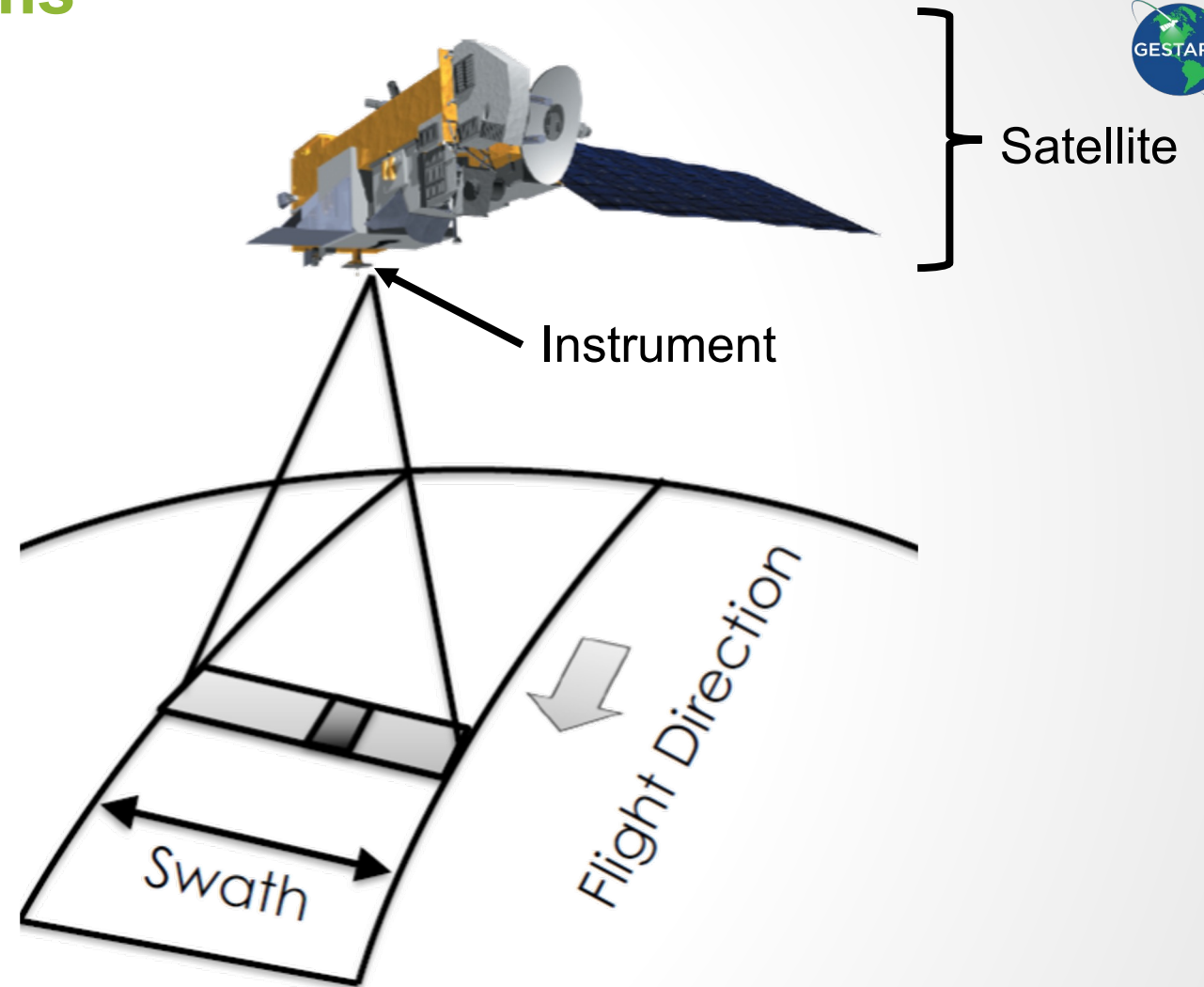
- Satellite v. Instrument
- Swath or Field of Regard



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
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Some common satellite data terms

- Satellite v. Instrument
- Swath or Field of Regard
- Overpass time (local solar time)



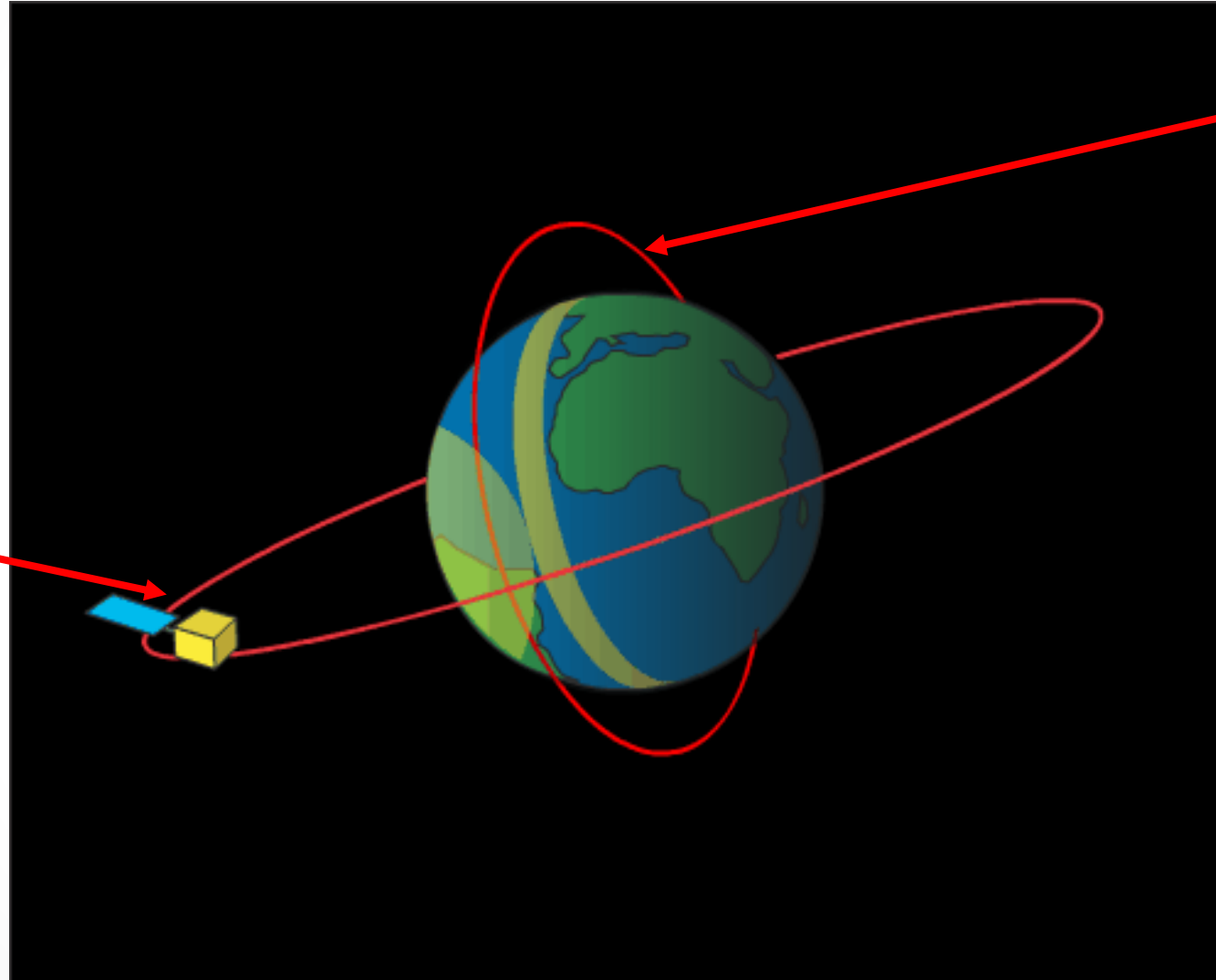
Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
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Common types of orbits for air quality satellites

Geostationary Orbit

Observes the same
area all the time

Observes throughout
the day (weather and
light permitting)



Polar Orbit

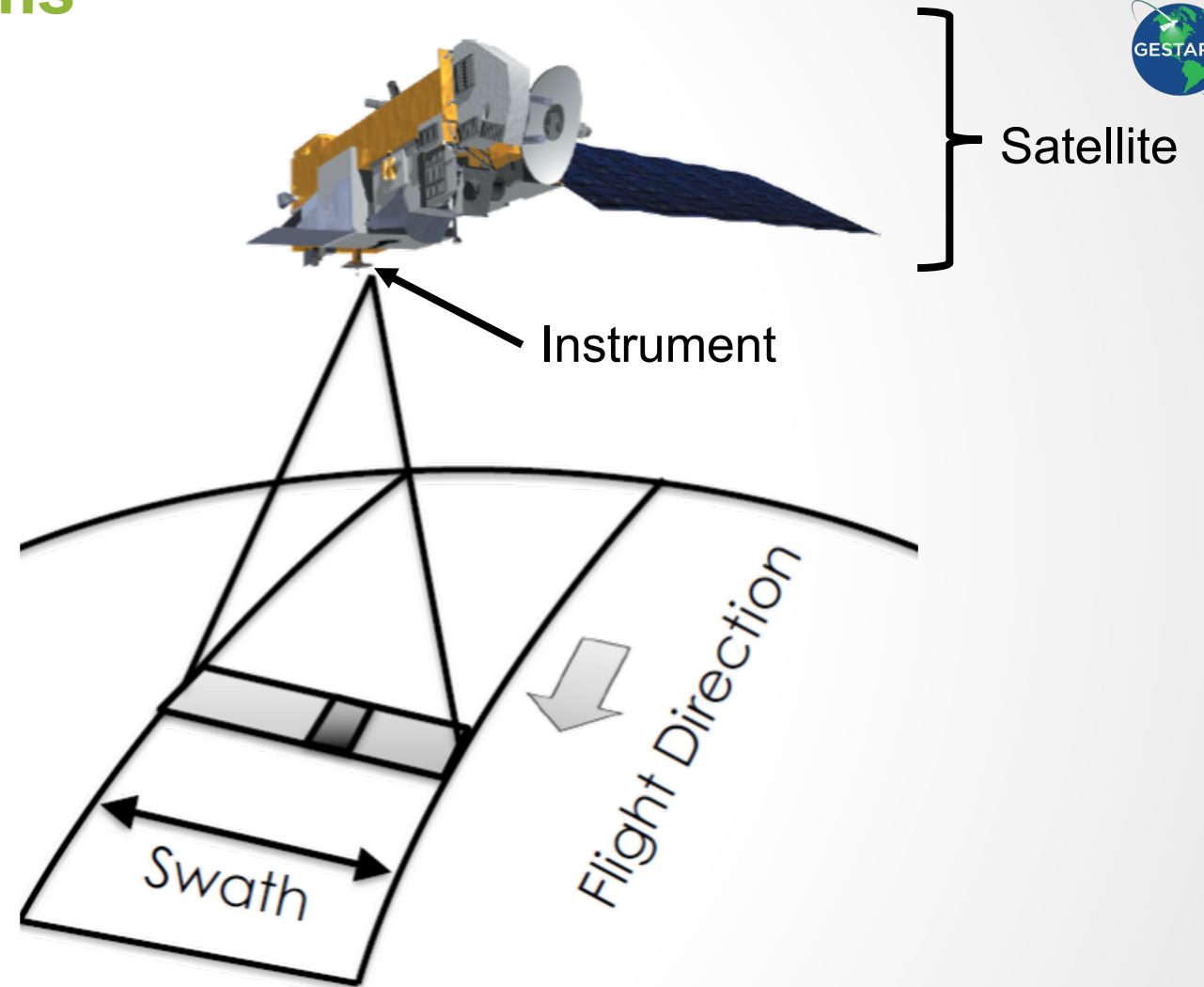
Observes a location
about once a day
(weather permitting)

Observes at about
the same time of day
(sun-synchronous)

source: NOAA
<https://scijinks.gov/orbit/>

Some common satellite data terms

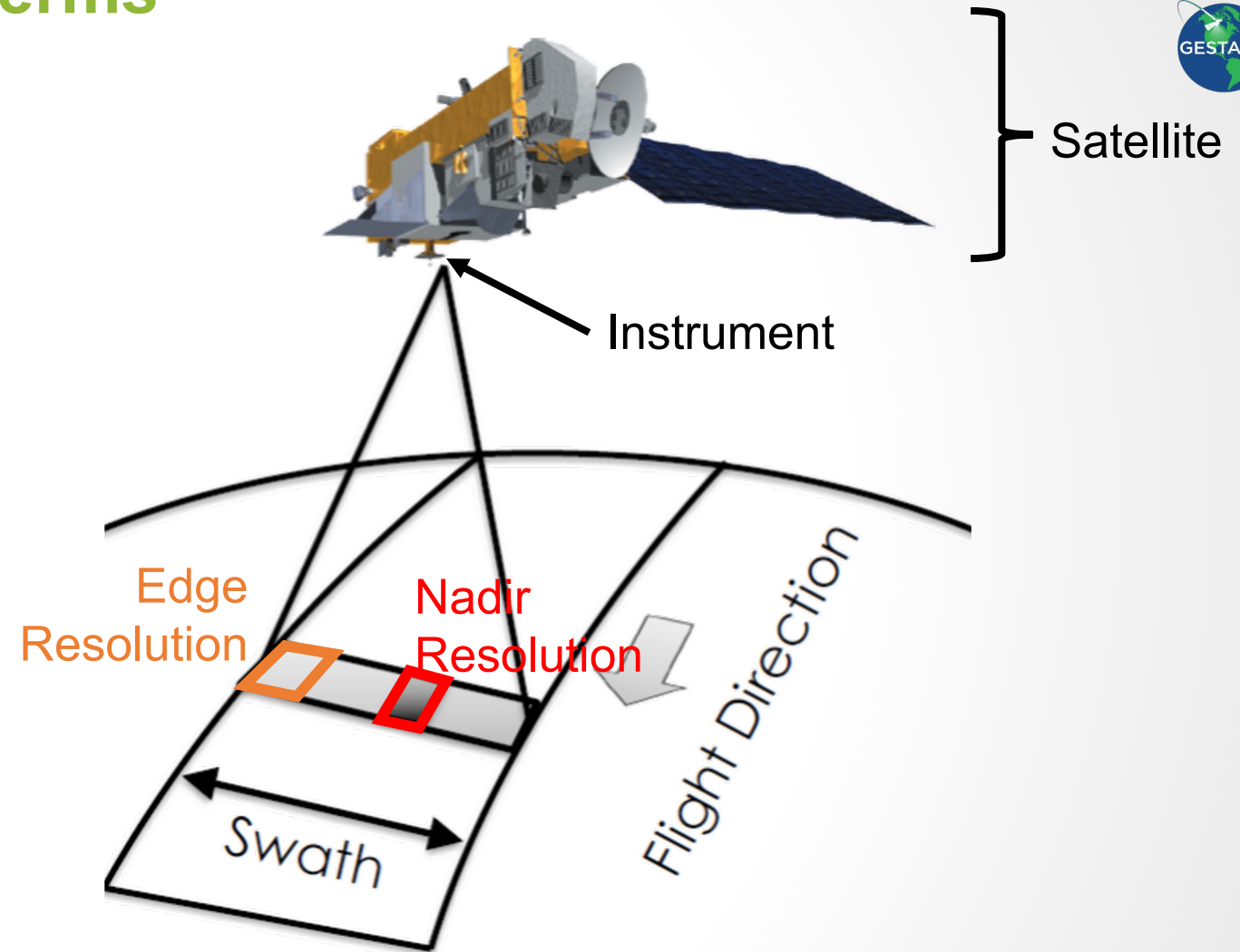
- Satellite v. Instrument
- Swath or Field of Regard
- Overpass time (local solar time)
- Equator crossing time
- Ascending/Descending
- Temporal Resolution/Return period



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-inside-look-how-nasa-measures-air-pollution>

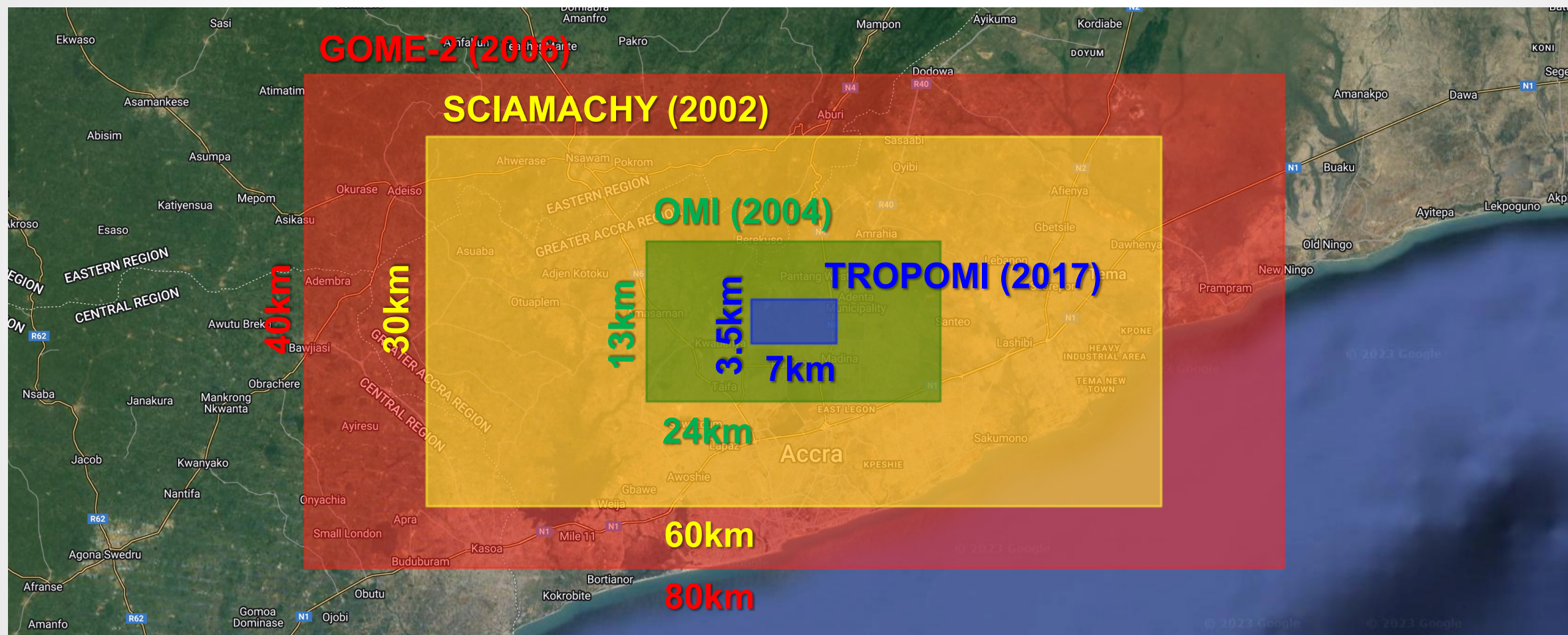
Some common satellite data terms

- Satellite v. Instrument
- Swath or Field of Regard
- Overpass time (local solar time)
- Equator crossing time
- Ascending/Descending
- Temporal Resolution/Return period
- Spatial Resolution (nadir v. edge)



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
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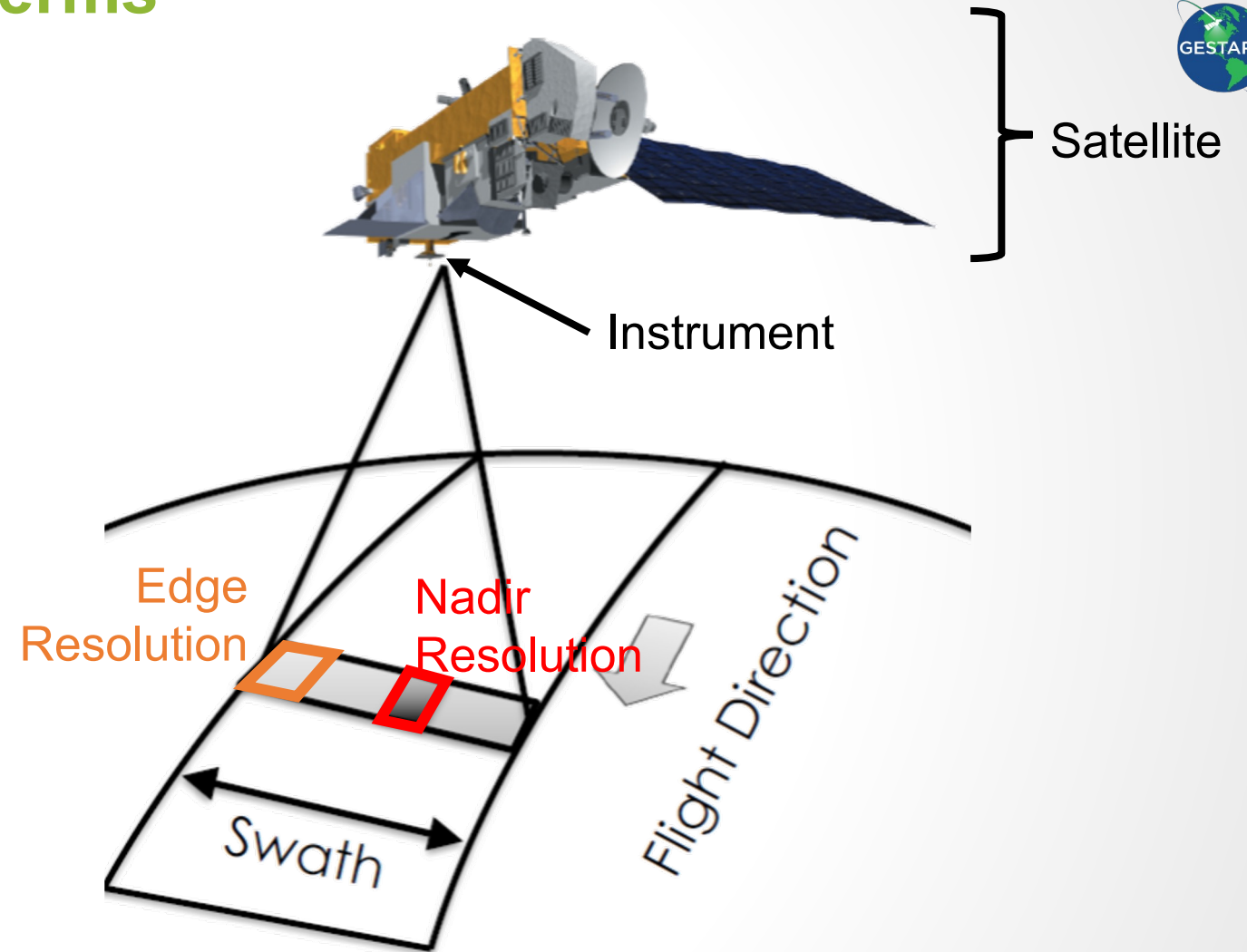
Spatial resolution has been improving over time



Source: Custom code in Google Earth Engine <https://code.earthengine.google.com/>

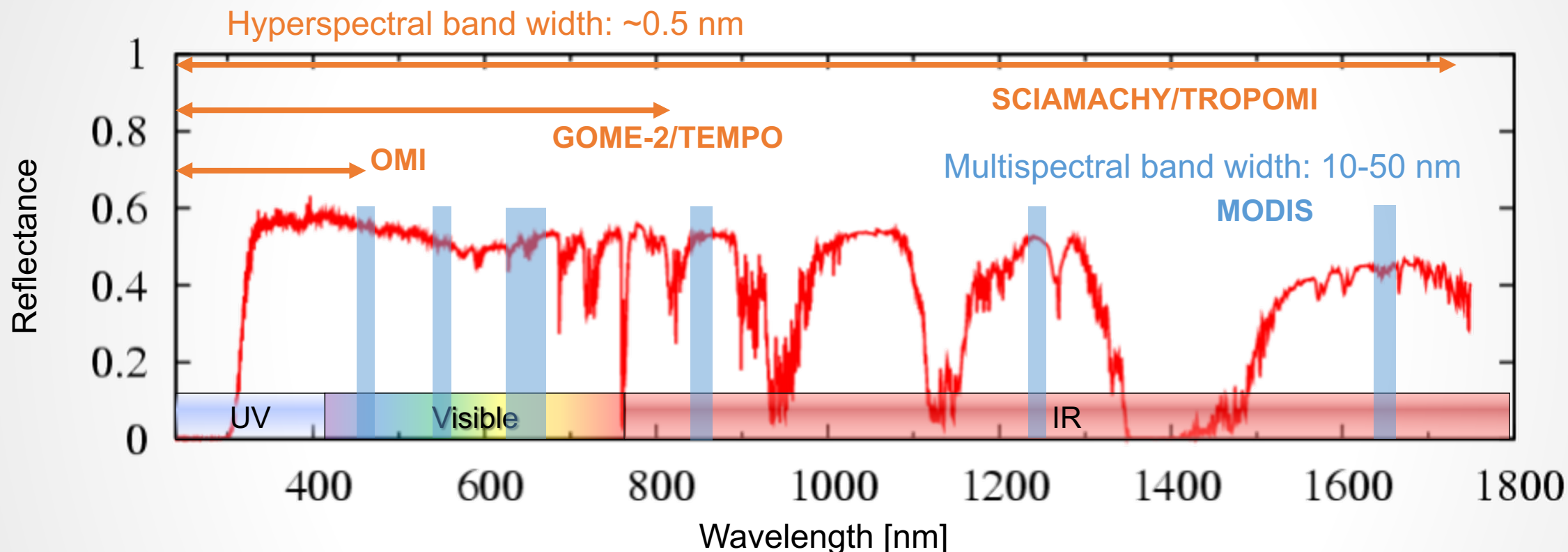
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- Spatial Resolution (nadir v. edge)
- Spectral Resolution



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-inside-look-how-nasa-measures-air-pollution>

Spectral resolution & what satellites can remotely measure



UV & vis. multispectral data → aerosol information
Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) @ 550nm

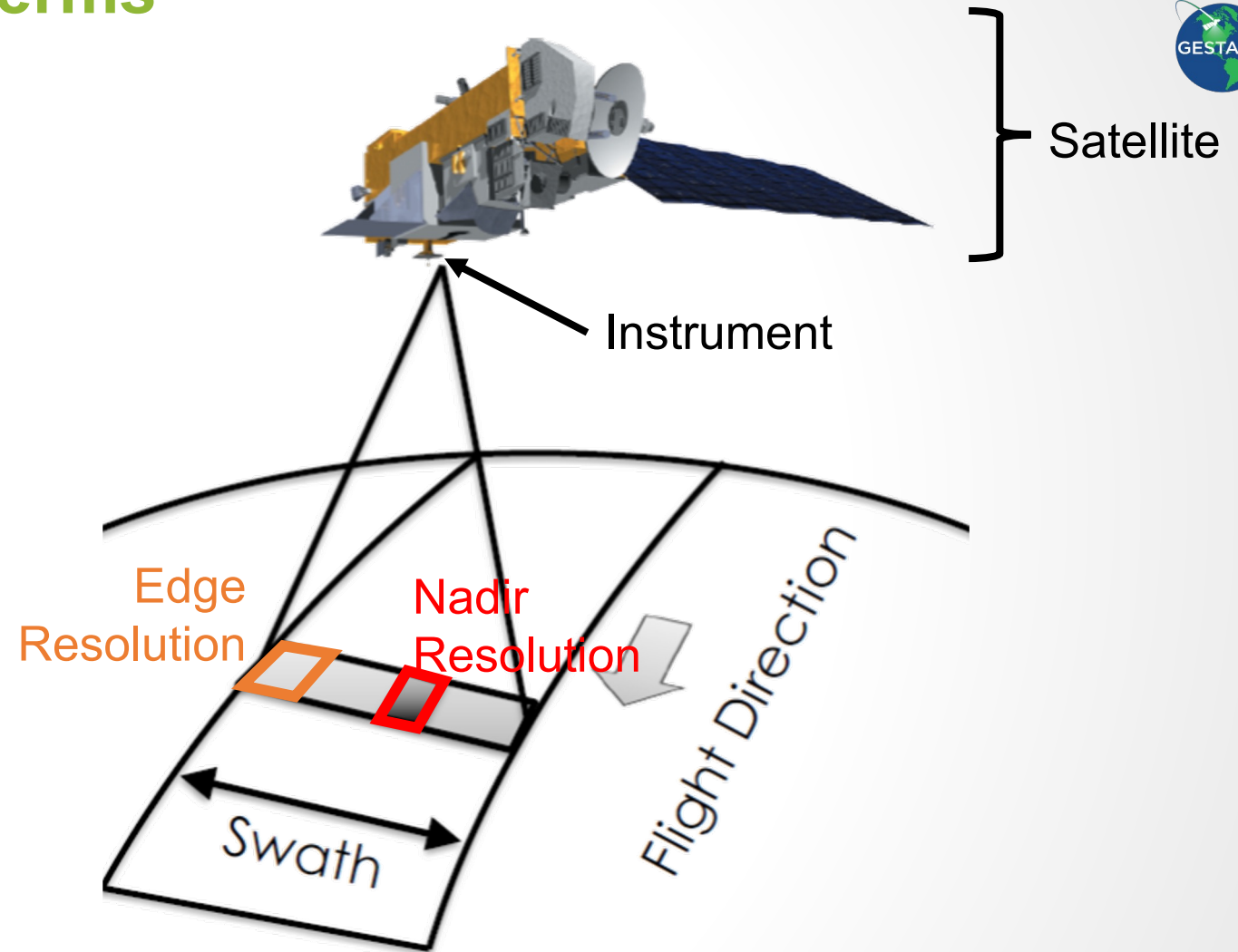
UV & vis. hyperspectral data → NO_2 , SO_2 , O_3^* , HCHO
IR hyperspectral data → CO , CO_2 , CH_4

*high O_3 concentrations in the stratosphere make near-surface measurements difficult

Source: Gupta, Follette-Cook, Strode, Malings (2023). [ARSET - NASA Air Quality-Focused Remote Sensing for EPA Applications](#) NASA ARSET.

Some common satellite data terms

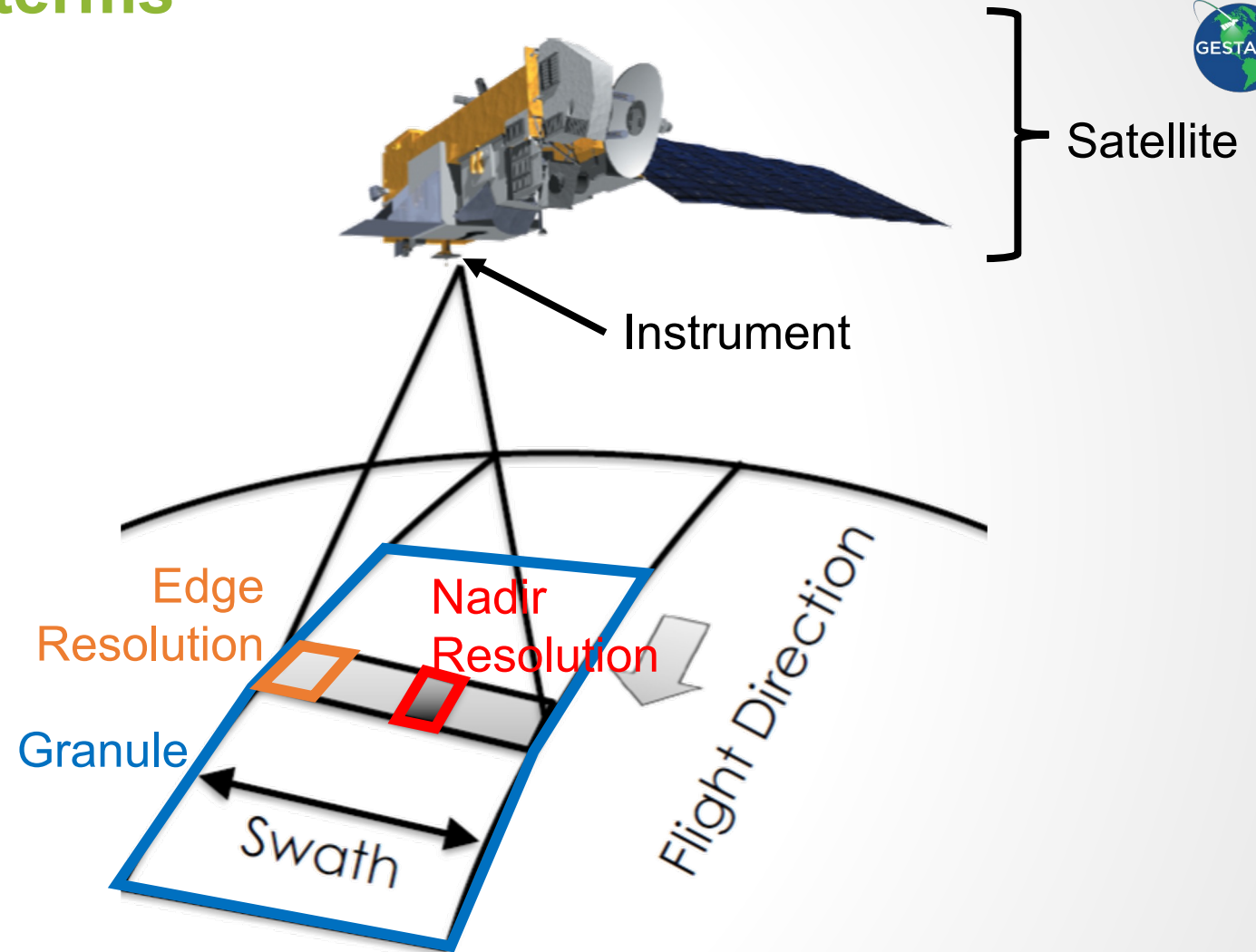
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- Temporal Resolution/Return period
- Spatial Resolution (nadir v. edge)
- Spectral Resolution
- Data product
- Column concentration
- Aerosol Optical Depth/Thickness



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
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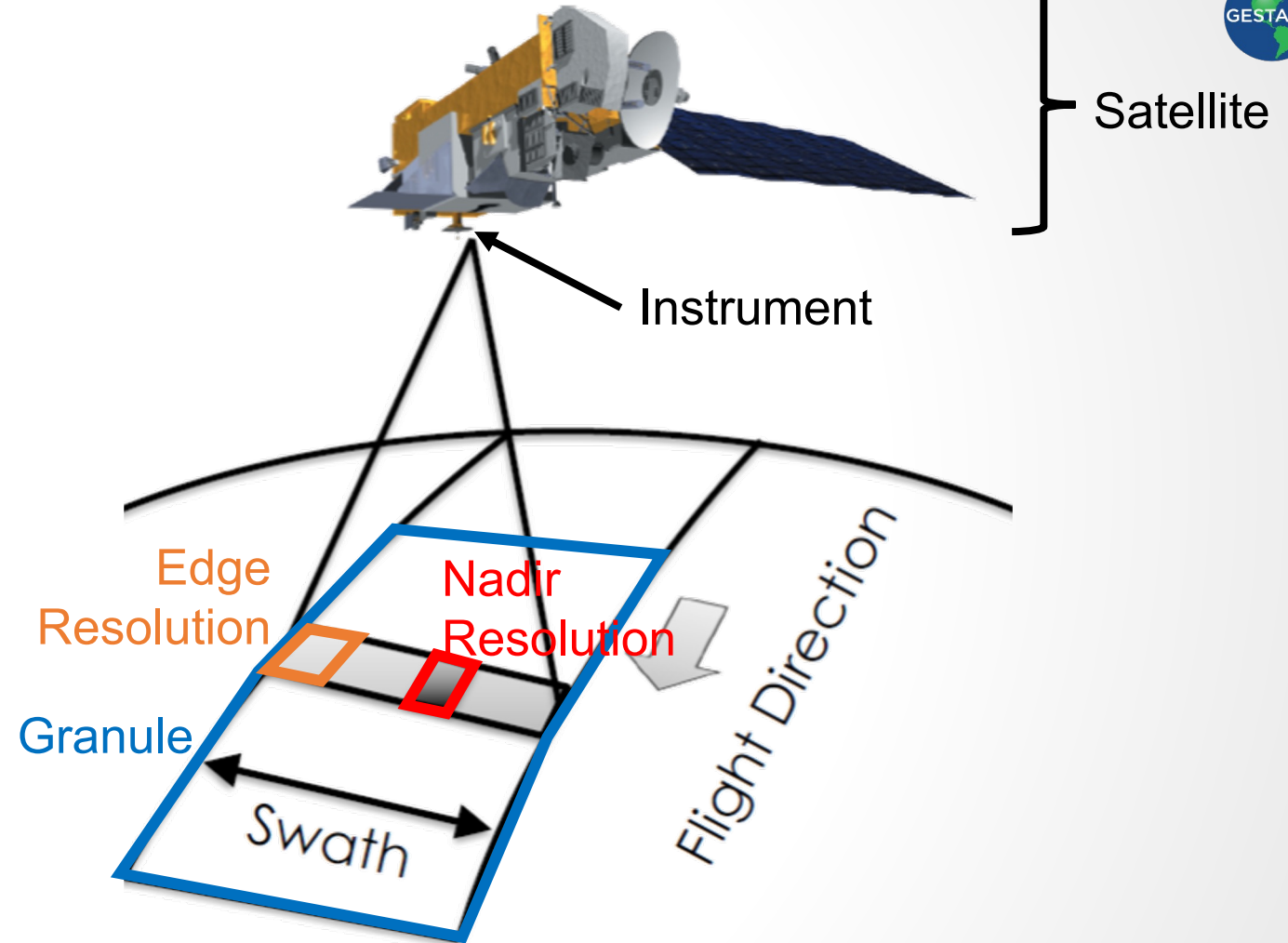
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- Temporal Resolution/Return period
- Spatial Resolution (nadir v. edge)
- Spectral Resolution
- Data product
- Column concentration
- Aerosol Optical Depth/Thickness
- Granule



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
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- Equator crossing time
- Ascending/Descending
- Temporal Resolution/Return period
- Spatial Resolution (nadir v. edge)
- Spectral Resolution
- Data product
- Column concentration
- Aerosol Optical Depth/Thickness
- Granule
- Processing level
- Quality flags and masks



Source: Follette-Cook, M.; Prados, A.; Gupta, P. (2020). An Inside Look at How NASA Measures Air Pollution. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-inside-look-how-nasa-measures-air-pollution>

Satellite data processing levels

Level 0: Raw data

0101010100101010100101010100101001010100101010010010010
100101001010010100101010010100100101001010010100100000010

Level 1: Geo-referenced raw data

010010010011001010010100101001010010100101001010010100100
101010010101010011001010010100101001001010010100101001010

Level 2: Derived geophysical variables (e.g., column concentrations)

0110101010010100100000101010101010111111001100101001010
0100101010100101001010001010000010111111001010010100
1011011010101001010010100101100101000000101001100100
0101010100101010100101010100101001010100101010010010010

Level 3: Data re-mapped to uniform space & time grids

100101001010010100101010010100100101001010010100100000010
010010010011001010010100101001010010100101001010010100100
101010010101010011001010010100101001001010010100101001010

Level 4: Data combined together from multiple sources (e.g., satellite and model data)

0110101010010100100000101010101010111111001100101001010
0100101010100101001010001010000010111111001010010100
1011011010101001010010100101100101000000101001100100

Source: NASA EarthData <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/collaborate/open-data-services-and-software/data-information-policy/data-levels>

Satellite data processing levels

Level 0: Raw data

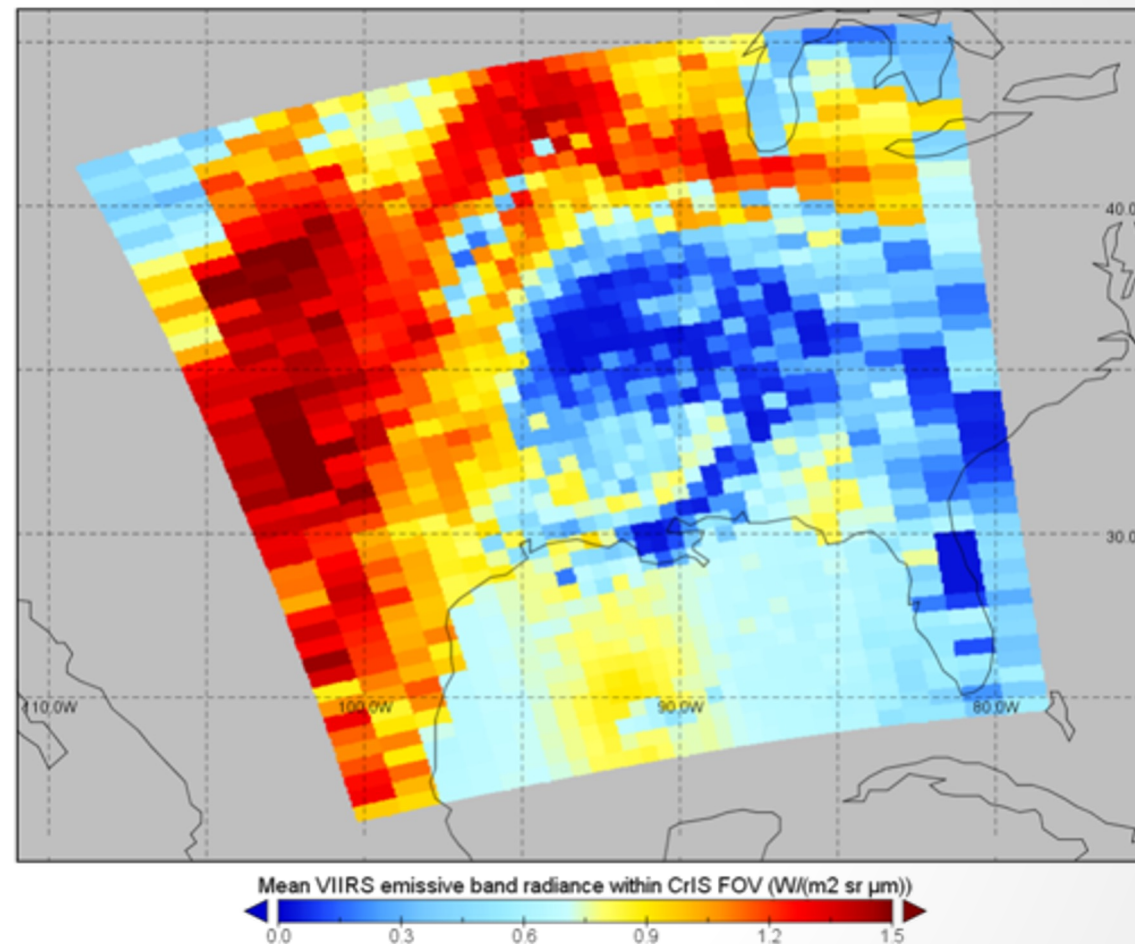
Level 1: Geo-referenced raw data

Level 2: Derived geophysical
variables (e.g., column
concentrations)

Level 3: Data re-mapped to
uniform space & time grids

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from multiple sources (e.g.,
satellite and model data)

Mean VIIRS emissive band (4.05 microns) radiance within CrIS FOV, First FOV, Granule 192, 6/8/2020



Source: NASA EarthData <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/collaborate/open-data-services-and-software/data-information-policy/data-levels>

NASA GES DISC https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets/SNDRSNCrISL1BIMG_2/summary

Satellite data processing levels

Level 0: Raw data

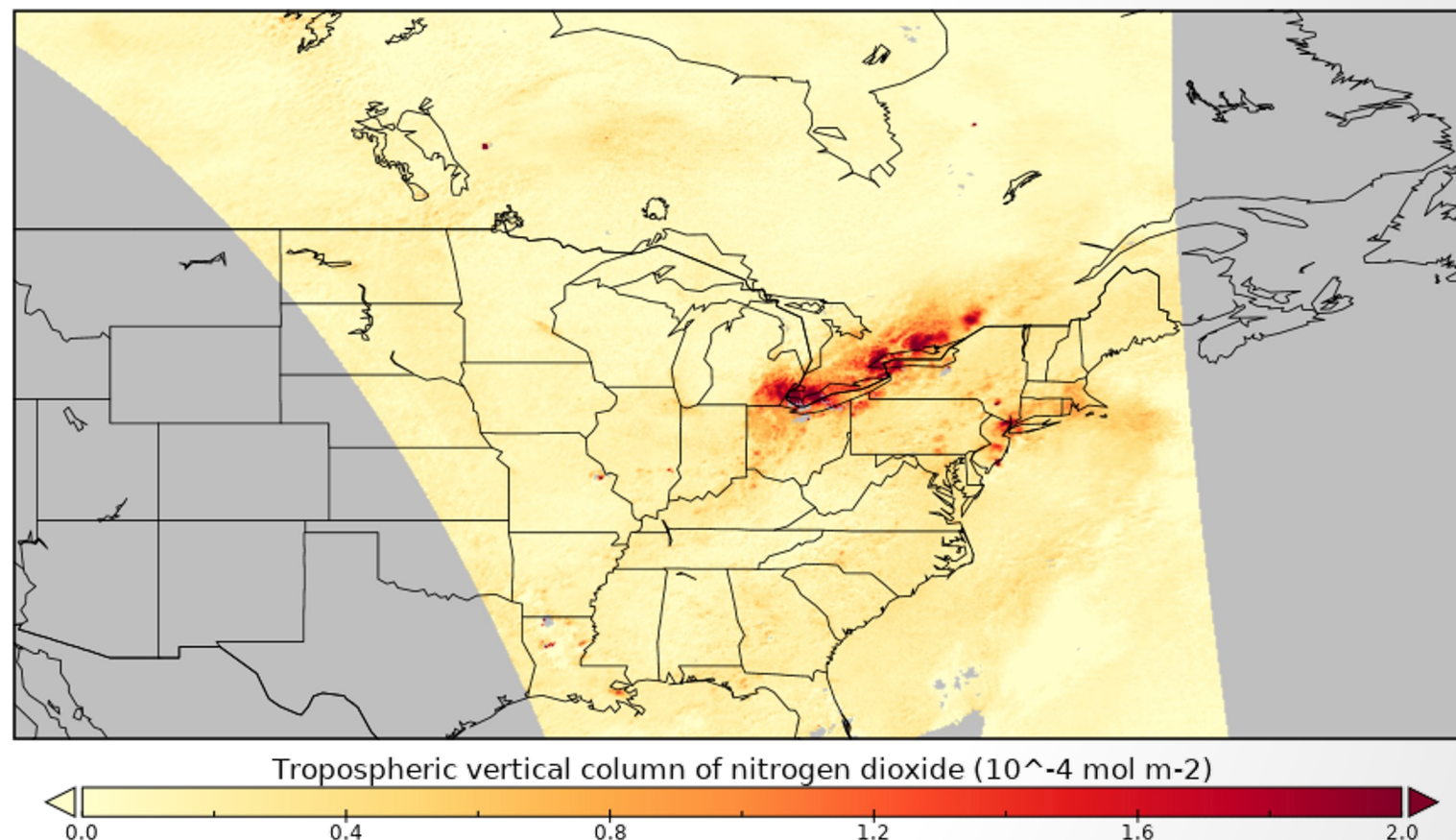
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variables (e.g., column
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Level 3: Data re-mapped to
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Level 4: Data combined together
from multiple sources (e.g.,
satellite and model data)

Copernicus TROPOMI Nitrogen Dioxide Product (Orbit #9397)



Source: NASA EarthData <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/collaborate/open-data-services-and-software/data-information-policy/data-levels>

NASA GES DISC https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets/S5P_L2_NO2_HiR_1/summary

Satellite data processing levels

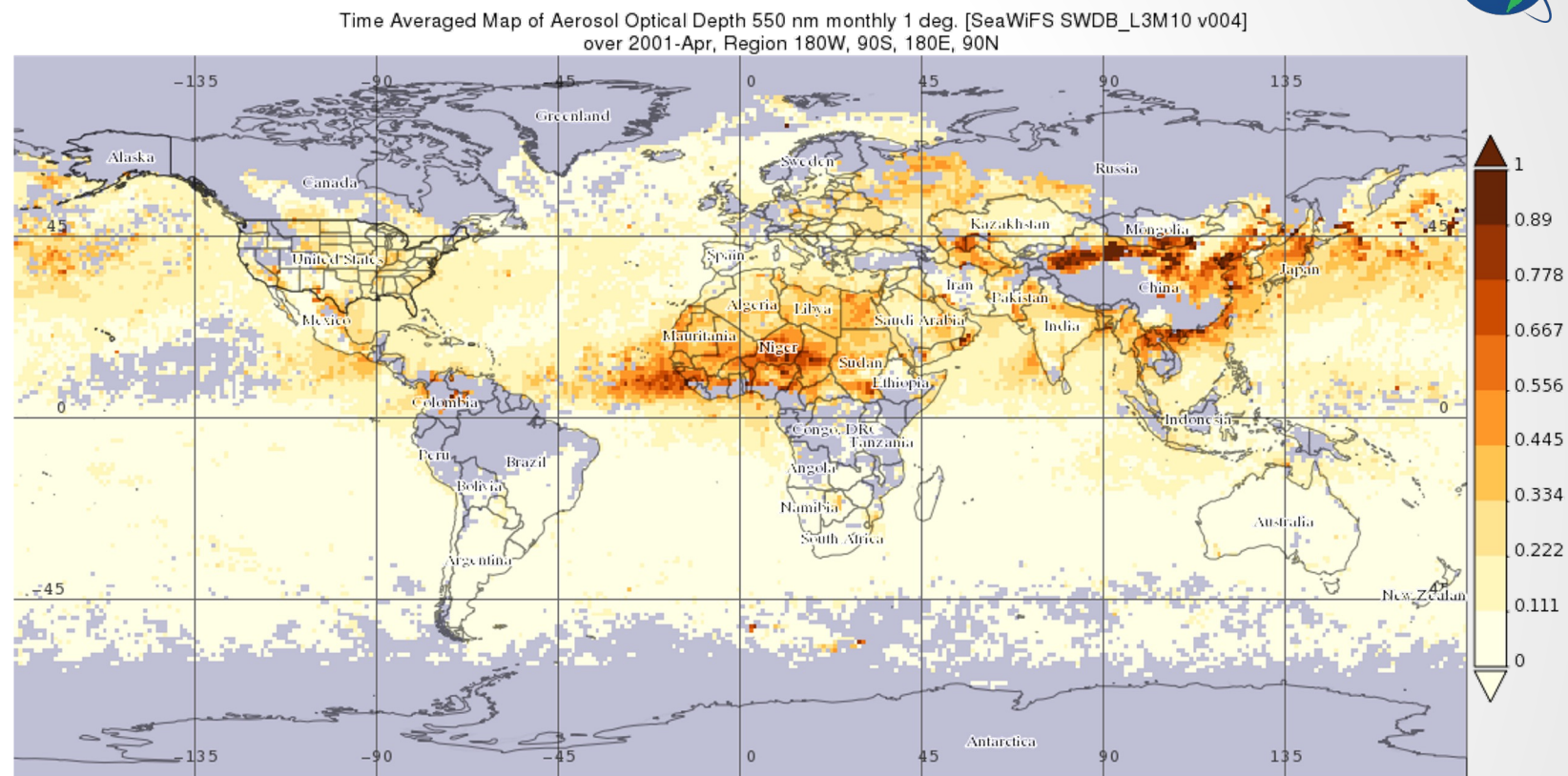
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Source: NASA EarthData <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/collaborate/open-data-services-and-software/data-information-policy/data-levels>

NASA GES DISC https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets/SWDB_L3M10_004/summary

Satellite data processing levels

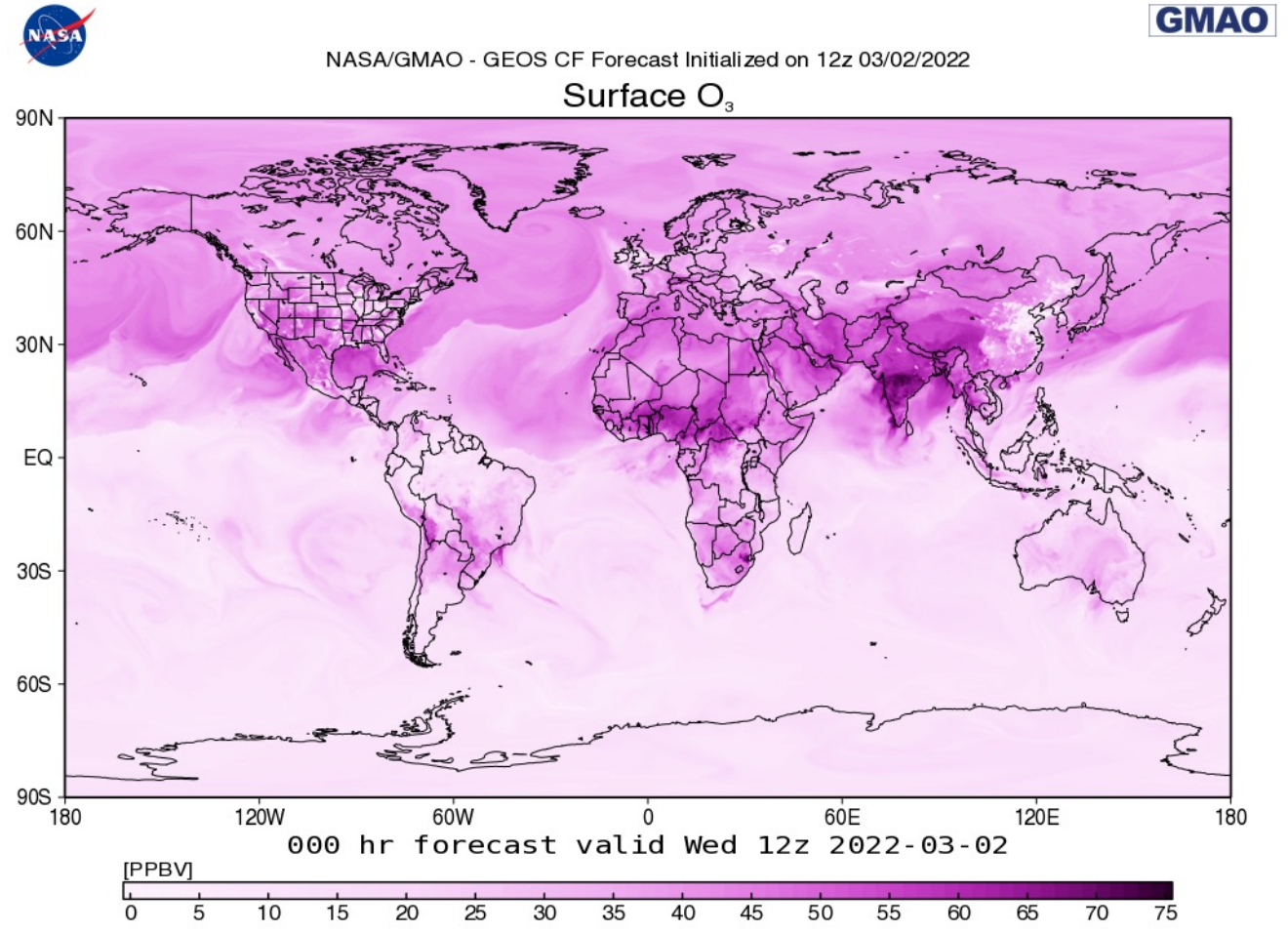
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Source: NASA EarthData <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/collaborate/open-data-services-and-software/data-information-policy/data-levels>

NASA GMAO FLUID Tool https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/cf/classic_geos_cf/?one_click=1&tau=000&stream=GEOSCF&level=0®ion=global&fcst=20220302T120000&field=o3sfc



Satellite Data for Air Quality Aerosols & Particulate Matter

aerosol optical depth from satellite instruments

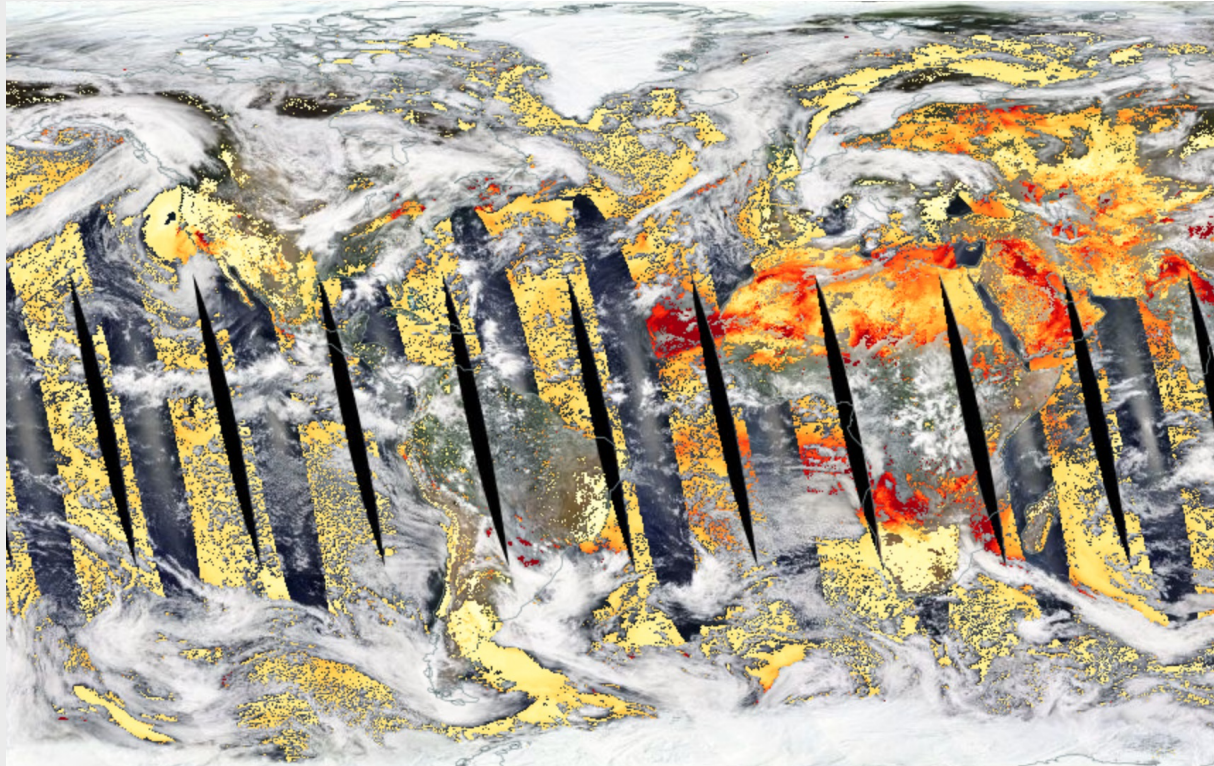
MODIS and VIIRS

MODIS		VIIRS
Aqua, Terra	Satellites	SNPP, NOAA-20, NOAA-21
1999, 2002	Launched	2011, 2017, 2022
Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer	Instrument	Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite
405 - 14385 nm (IR, Visible)	Spectral Range	412 - 12100 nm (IR, Visible)
36	Spectral Bands	22
0.5 – 2 km pixel edge	Spatial Resolution	0.75 – 1.5 km pixel edge
1-2 Days	Global Coverage	Daily
~ 10:30, 13:30 LST	Local Overpass Time	~ 12:30, 13:30 LST

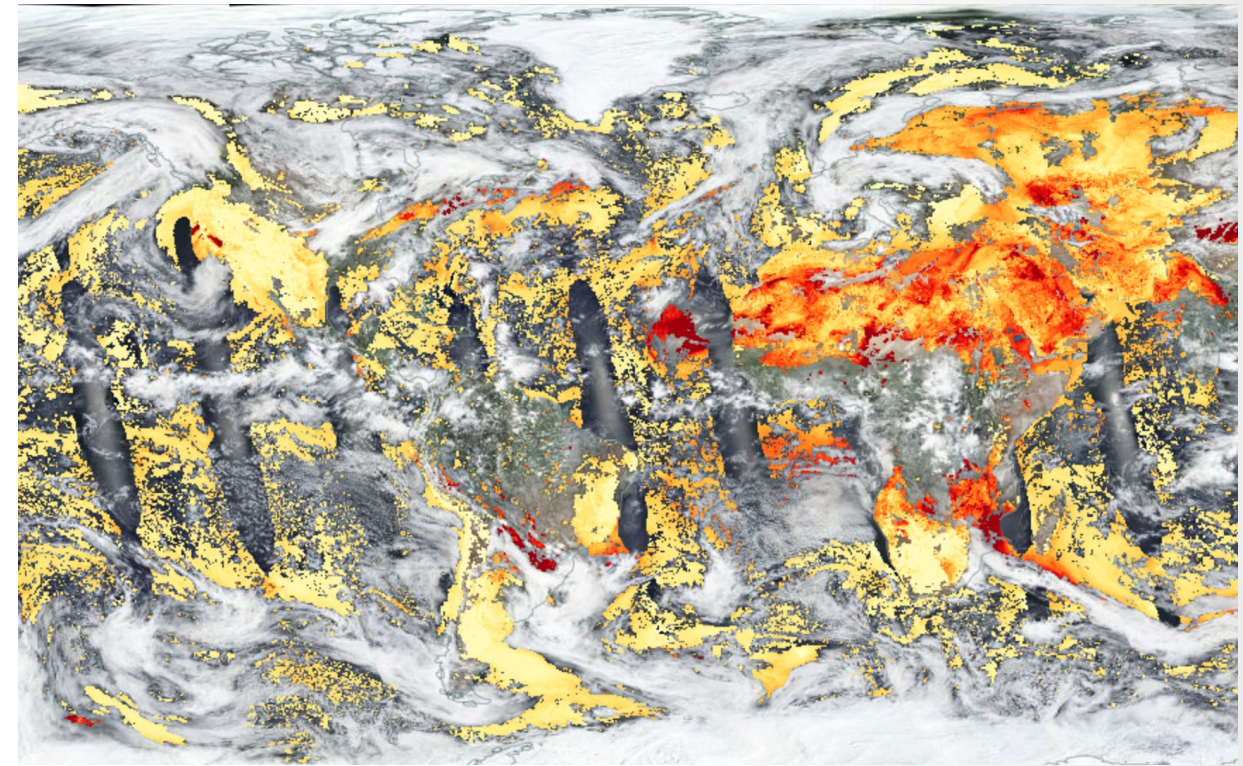
MODIS and VIIRS: Air Quality Relevant Products

MODIS		VIIRS	
True Color Image	...	True Color Image	...
Aerosol Optical Depth	MOD/MYD04_L2 (10km) MOD/MYD04_3K (3km) MCD19A2 (1km) Gridded (1°)	Aerosol Optical Depth	AERDB_L2_VIIRS (6km) AERDT_L2_VIIRS (6km) JRR-AOD_v2r3 (0.75km) Gridded (1°)
Fire Detection	MOD/MYD04A1 (1km)	Fire Detection	VNP12IMGTDL_NRT VJ114IMGTDL_NDT (0.375km)
		Smoke Detection	...
		Dust Detection	...

Aerosol Optical Depth from MODIS and VIIRS



MODIS-Aqua (DB)

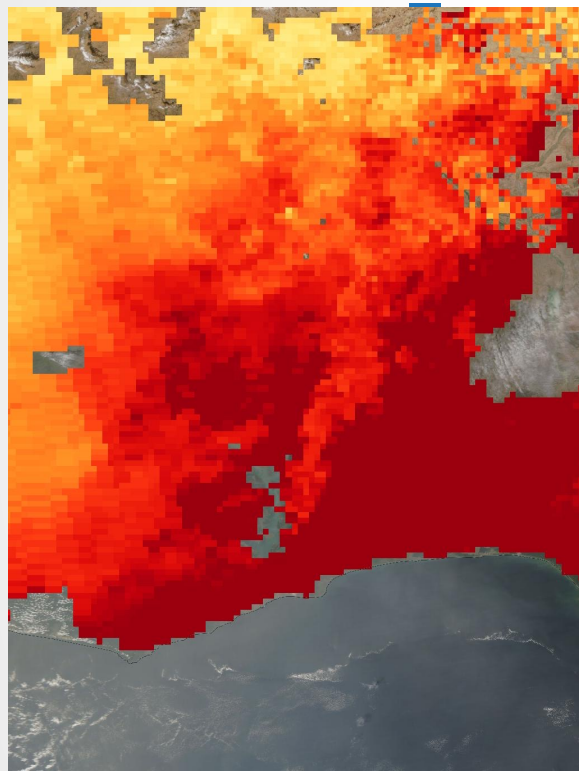


VIIRS-SNPP (DB)

Source: Gupta, P.; Follette-Cook, M.; Strode, S.; Malings, C. (2023). ARSET - NASA Air Quality-Focused Remote Sensing for EPA Applications. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET). <http://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-nasa-air-quality-focused-remote-sensing-epa-applications>

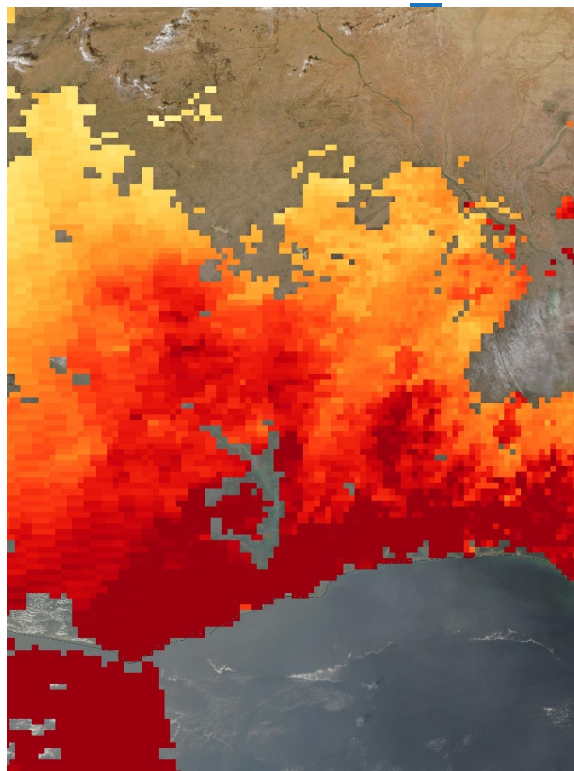
Differences in Retrieval Algorithms

Deep Blue (10km)
MOD/MYD04_L2



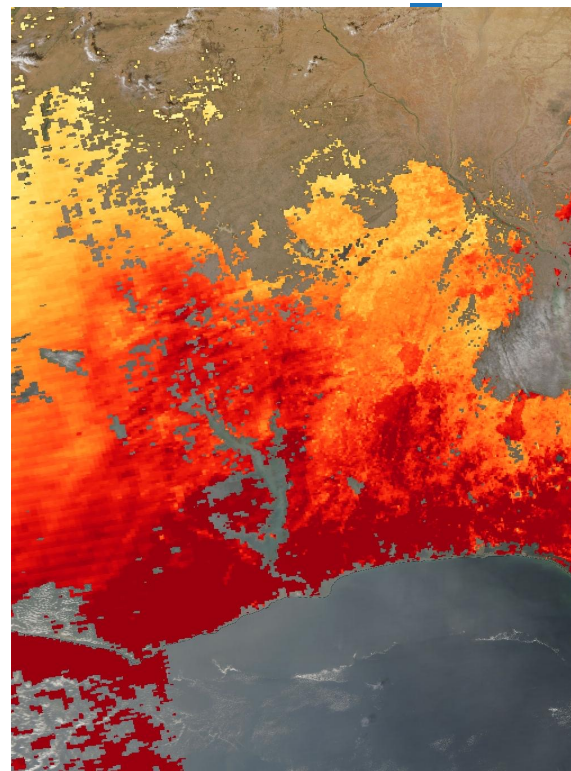
Land only,
best for bright surfaces

Dark Target (10km)
MOD/MYD04_L2



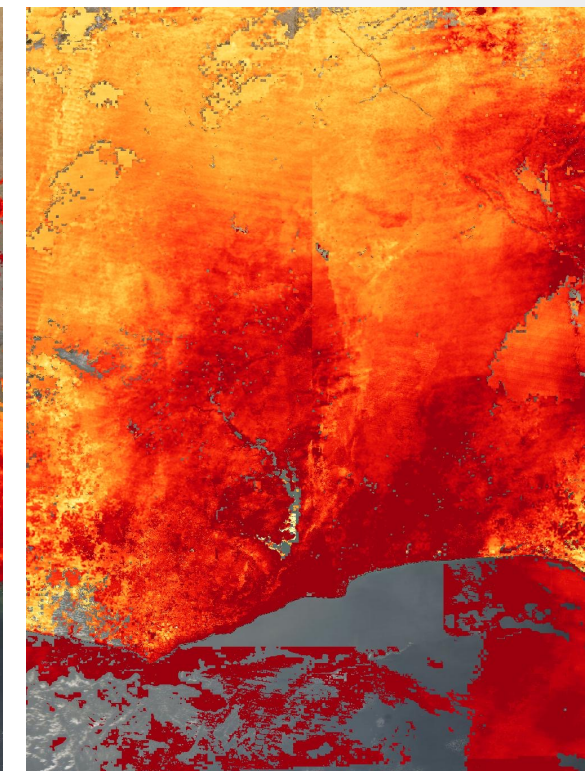
Land & water,
best for dark surfaces

Dark Target (3km)
MOD/MYD04_3K



Higher resolution,
issues in urban areas

MAIAC (1km)
MCD19A2



Highest resolution,
combine Aqua & Terra

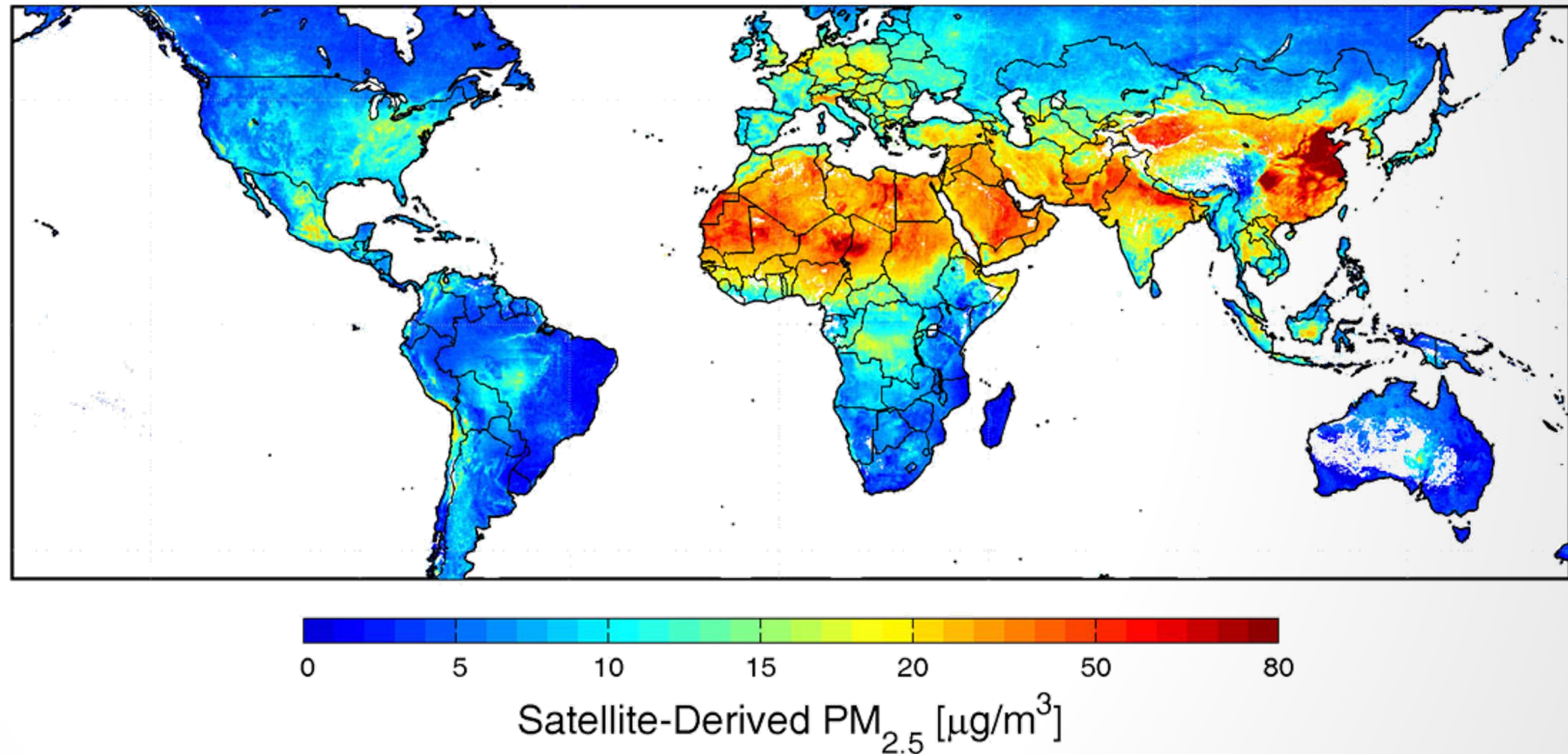
Source: Malings et al. (2023). ARSET - Satellite Data for Air Quality Environmental Justice and Equity Applications. NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET).
<http://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/get-involved/training/english/arset-satellite-data-air-quality-environmental-justice-and-equity>

Satellite-derived surface PM data products

Combine satellite data with other information (models, surface monitors) to derive high spatial resolution maps of surface concentrations (especially PM_{2.5}) globally and regionally.

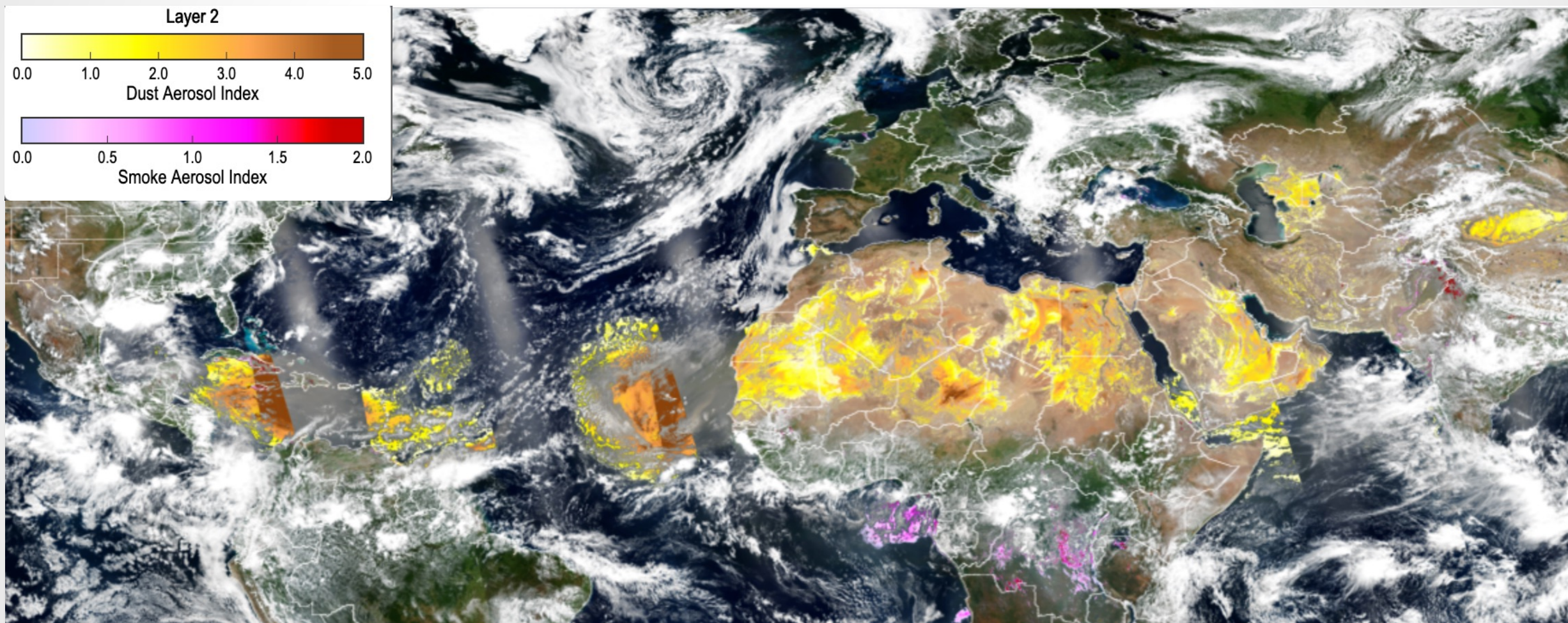
Many datasets available through [NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center \(SEDAC\)](#).

Datasets lag significantly behind real-time.



Sources: Di et al. (2019) [An ensemble-based model of PM_{2.5} concentration across the contiguous US ...](#) *Environmental International*.
van Donkelaar et al. (2021) [Monthly Global Estimates of Fine Particulate Matter and Their Uncertainty](#). *Env. Sci. & Tech*.

VIIRS smoke and dust index to classify aerosol types



Source: NOAA JSTAR Mapper <https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/ipss/mapper>

Geostationary Satellite: Meteosat-9,10,11 (ESA)

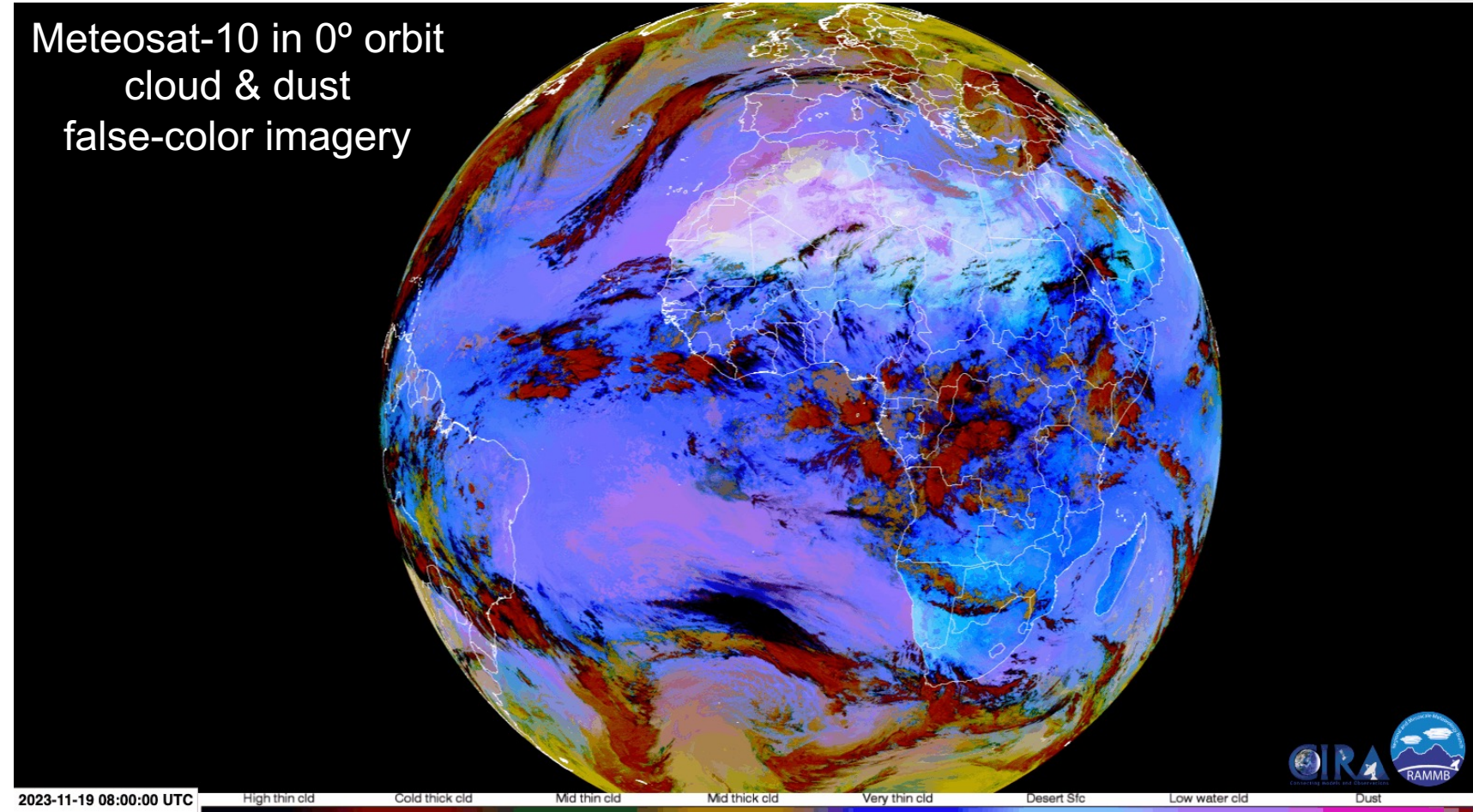
Geostationary satellites provide high temporal resolution (~15 min) full-disk imagery

Multiple satellites form a global constellation for aerosols

- GOES-16 (East US, South America)
- GOES-18 (West US, Pacific)
- Himawari-8/9 (Japan)
- GEO-KOMPSAT-2A (Korea)
- Fengyun-4 (China)
- GSAT (India)
- Meteosat-9 (Africa, India)
- Meteosat-10 (Europe, Africa)
- Meteosat-11 (Europe, Africa)

Instrument capabilities vary

Meteosat-10 in 0° orbit
cloud & dust
false-color imagery



Source: Colorado State University CIRA RAMMB website <https://rammb-slider.cira.colostate.edu/>
EUMETSAT data product viewer <https://view.eumetsat.int/productviewer>

Fire Detection

Thermal Anomalies

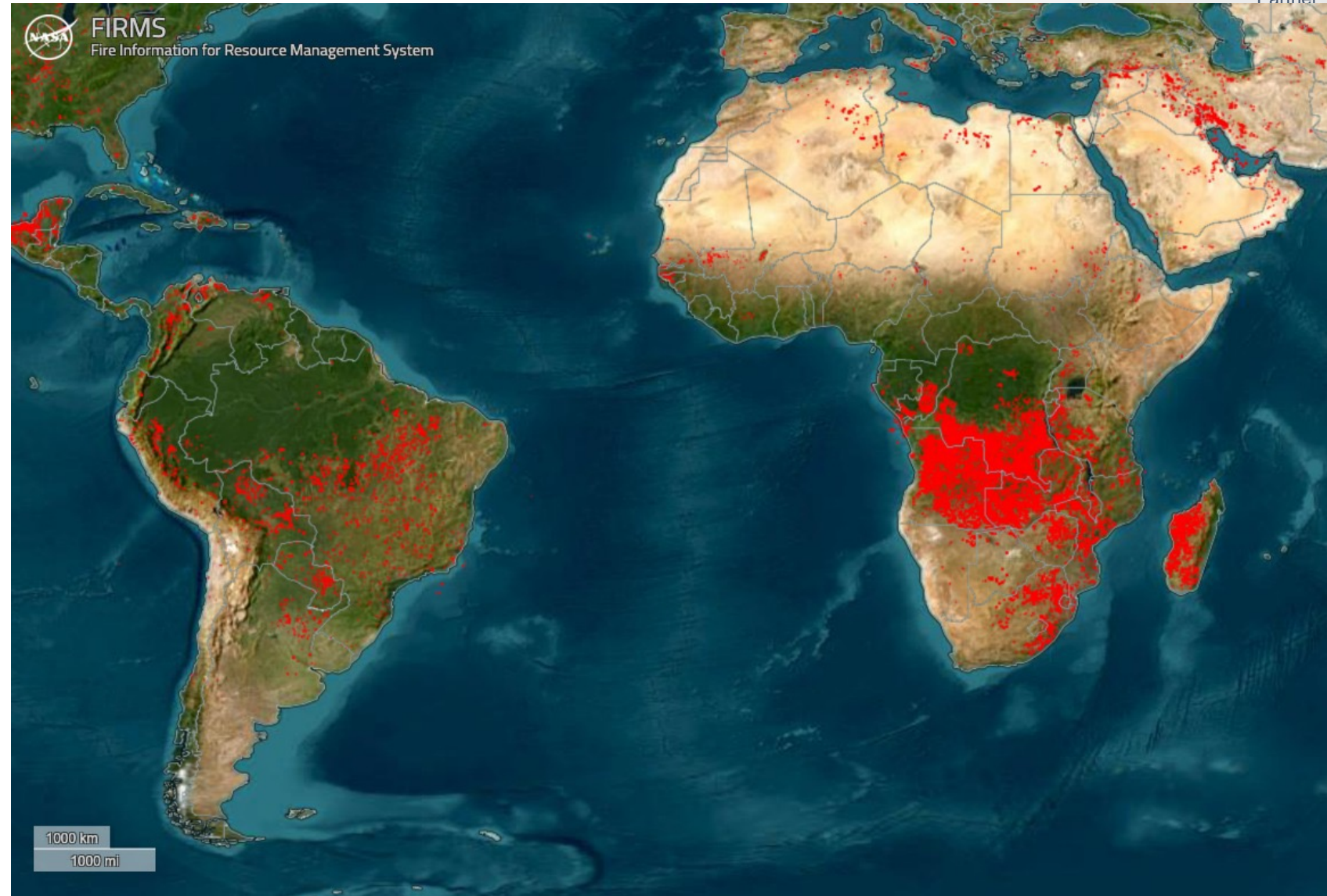
- Detection of extreme temperatures
- Indicative of active burning
- Thick smoke can block signal
- May miss small fires

Fire Radiative Power (FRP)

- Rate of emitted radiative energy by a fire

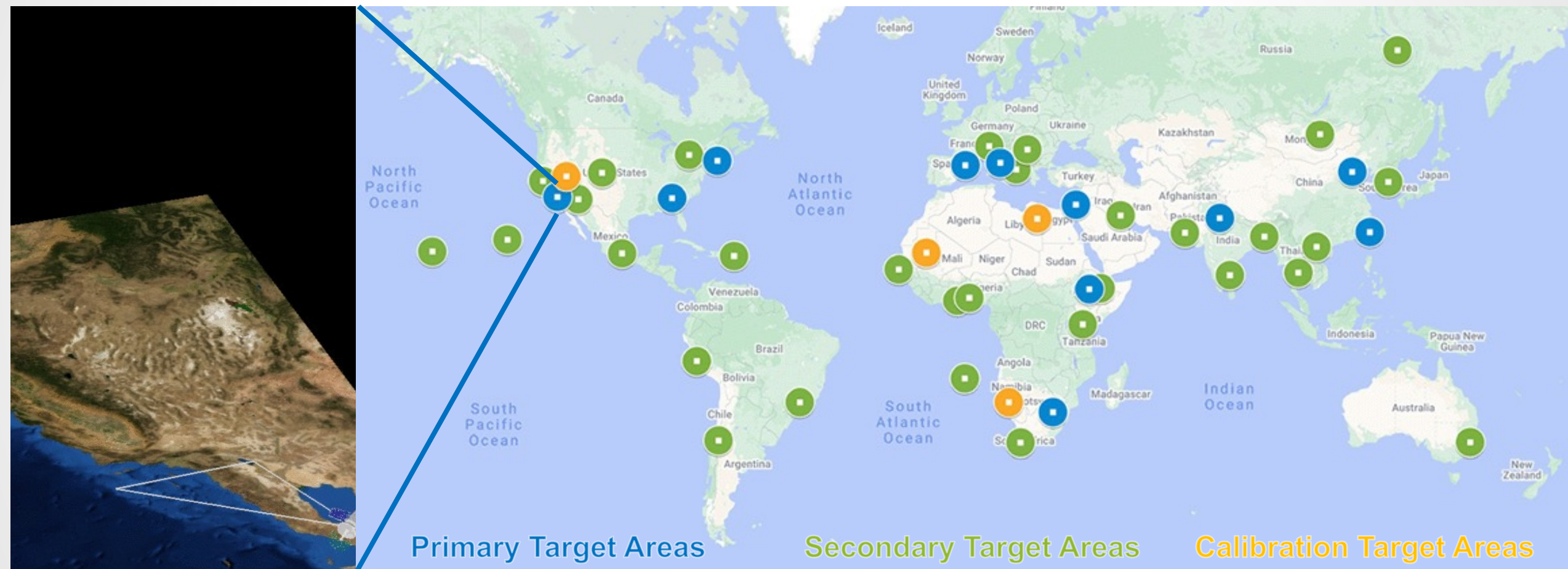
Fire Radiative Energy (FRE)

- Time integrated FRP
- Correlation between FRE and fire emissions



Source: NASA FIRMS <https://firms.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/>

Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols (MAIA)



Sources: NASA JPL MAIA Website <https://maia.jpl.nasa.gov/>
MAIA Early Adopters Program <https://maia.jpl.nasa.gov/resources/data-and-applications/>

Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and ocean Ecosystem (PACE)

Anticipated launch January 2024.

Polar-orbiting hyperspectral imager
and 2 multi-angle polarimeters.

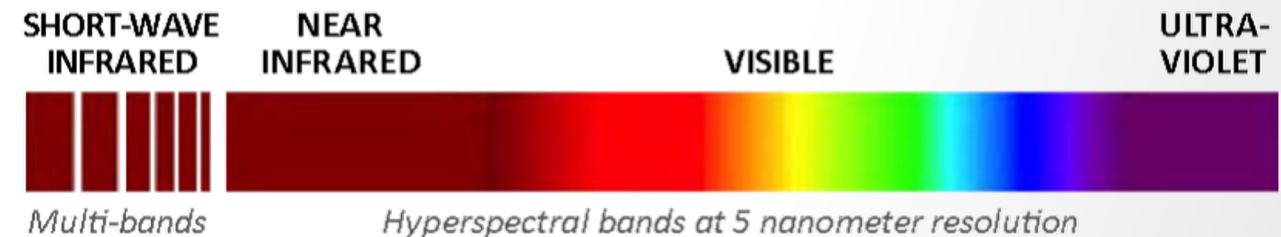
Supports applications in ocean
biogeochemistry, aerosols and air
quality, and clouds.

2 day global coverage.

1 km² spatial resolution for most data.

Anticipated air quality data products:

- Many Aerosol parameters, i.e., optical depth, size distribution, layer height, type, absorption
- NO₂
- O₃ (column)



Sources: NASA GSFC PACE Website <https://pace.gsfc.nasa.gov/>
PACE Early Adopters Program https://pace.oceansciences.org/app_adopters.htm

Satellite Data for Air Quality Trace Gases

Ozone, NO₂, Formaldehyde, SO₂, CO, and Methane from satellites

OMI and TROPOMI

OMI		TROPOMI
Aura	Satellite	Sentinel-5P
July 2004	Launched	Oct 2017
Nadir-Viewing Imaging Spectrometer	Instrument	Nadir-Viewing Imaging Spectrometer
264 – 504 nm (UV/VIS)	Spectral Range	270 nm – 2.3 μm (UV/VIS/NIR/SWIR)
0.42 – 0.63 nm	Spectral Resolution	0.55 nm
13x24 km ² at Nadir	Spatial Resolution	5.5 x 3.5 km ² at Nadir 7 x 28 km ² (UV1 Band) 7 x 7 km ² (SWIR Bands)
Daily	Global Coverage	Daily
~ 13:45 LST	Local Overpass Time	~ 13:30 LST*

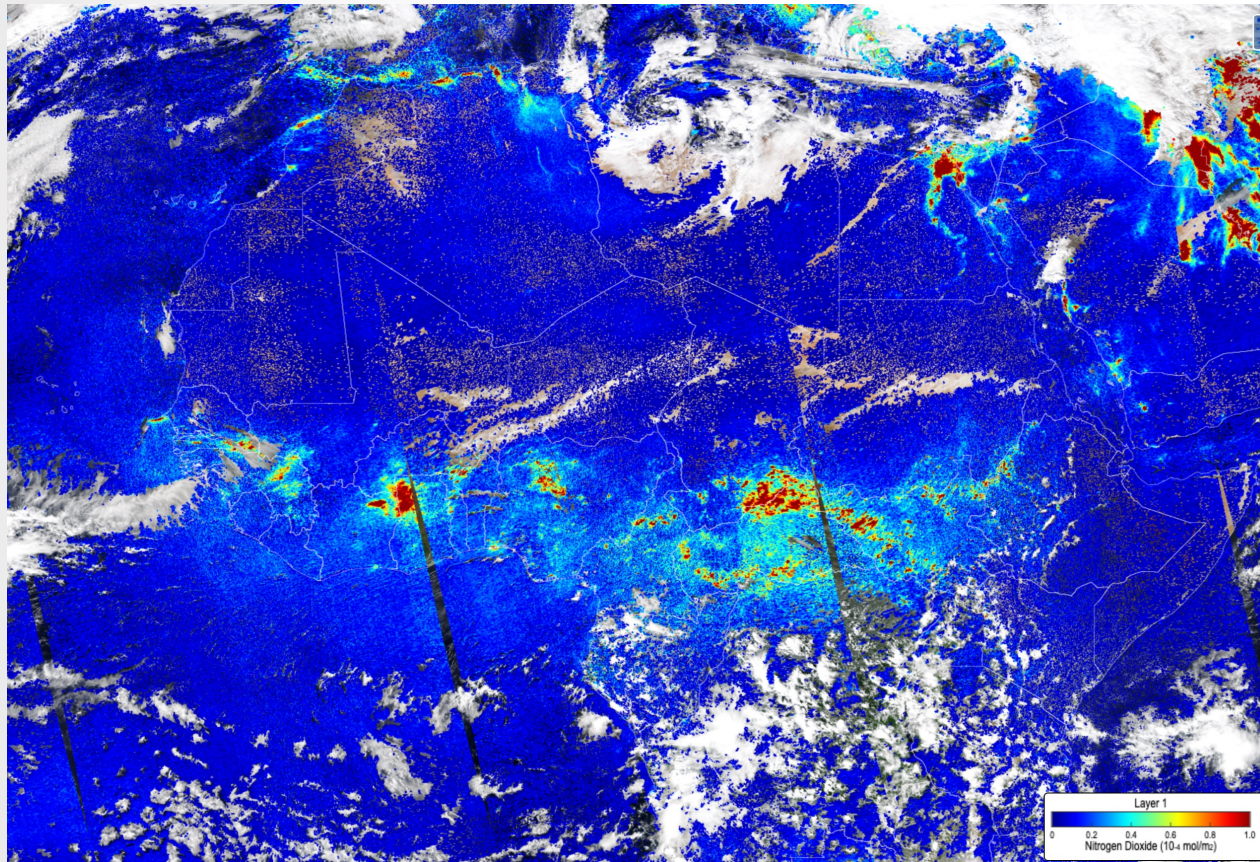
*synchronized within 5 minutes of SNPP

OMI and TROPOMI: Trace Gas Data Products

OMI		TROPOMI	
Tropospheric and Total Column NO ₂	Swath, Gridded (0.25° and 0.1°)	Tropospheric and Total Column NO ₂	Swath (5.5 km x 3.5km)
Total Column SO ₂	Swath, Gridded (0.25°)	Total Column SO ₂	Swath (5.5 x 3.5 km)
Total Column HCHO	Swath, Gridded (0.1°)	Tropospheric Column HCHO	Swath (5.5 x 3.5 km)
Tropospheric and Total Column O ₃	Gridded (0.25°)	Tropospheric, Total Column O ₃ , Profiles	Swath (5.5 x 3.5 km)
		Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Swath (7 km x 5.5 km)
		Methane (CH ₄)	Swath (7 km x 5.5 km)

TROPospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI)

TROPOMI Tropospheric NO₂ (Launched 2017)



OMI Tropospheric NO₂ (Launched 2004)



Sources: NOAA JSTAR Mapper website <https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/mapper/>
NASA Worldview <https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov/>

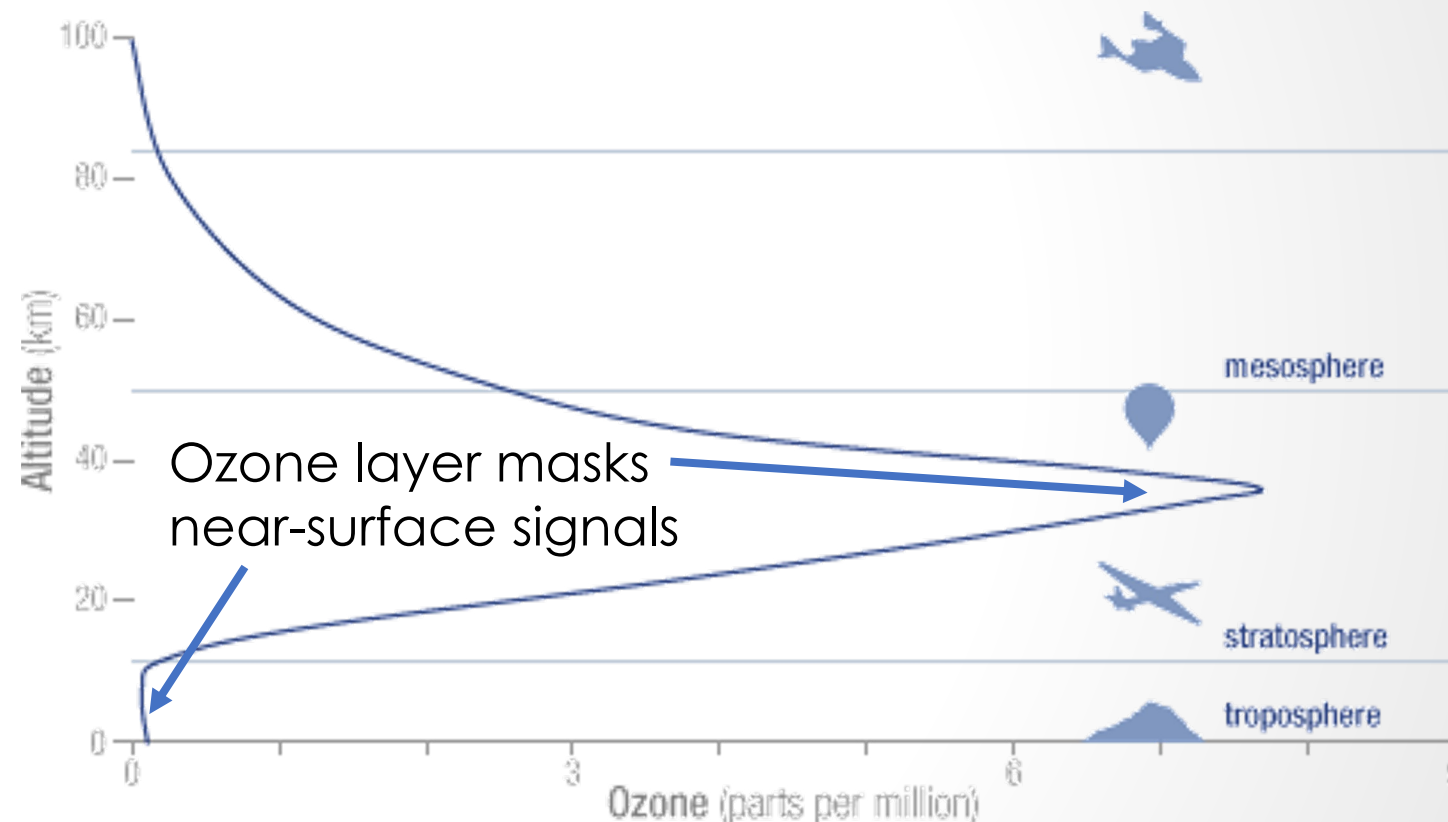
Ozone: difficult to see surface concentrations from space

Why measure O₃?

- Negative health impacts for humans, crops, and ecosystems
- Important to tropospheric chemistry

Limitations of Satellite O₃ Data

- High stratospheric concentrations mask more air-quality-relevant tropospheric concentrations
- Use of satellite Ozone is **NOT RECOMMENDED** for air quality



Source: [NASA Ozone Watch](#)

NO₂: tropospheric column matches well with surface sources

Why measure NO₂?

- health irritant
- ozone precursor
- Surface sources: fire, agricultural burning, transportation, industry, power generation
- High concentrations in the planetary boundary layer (PBL)

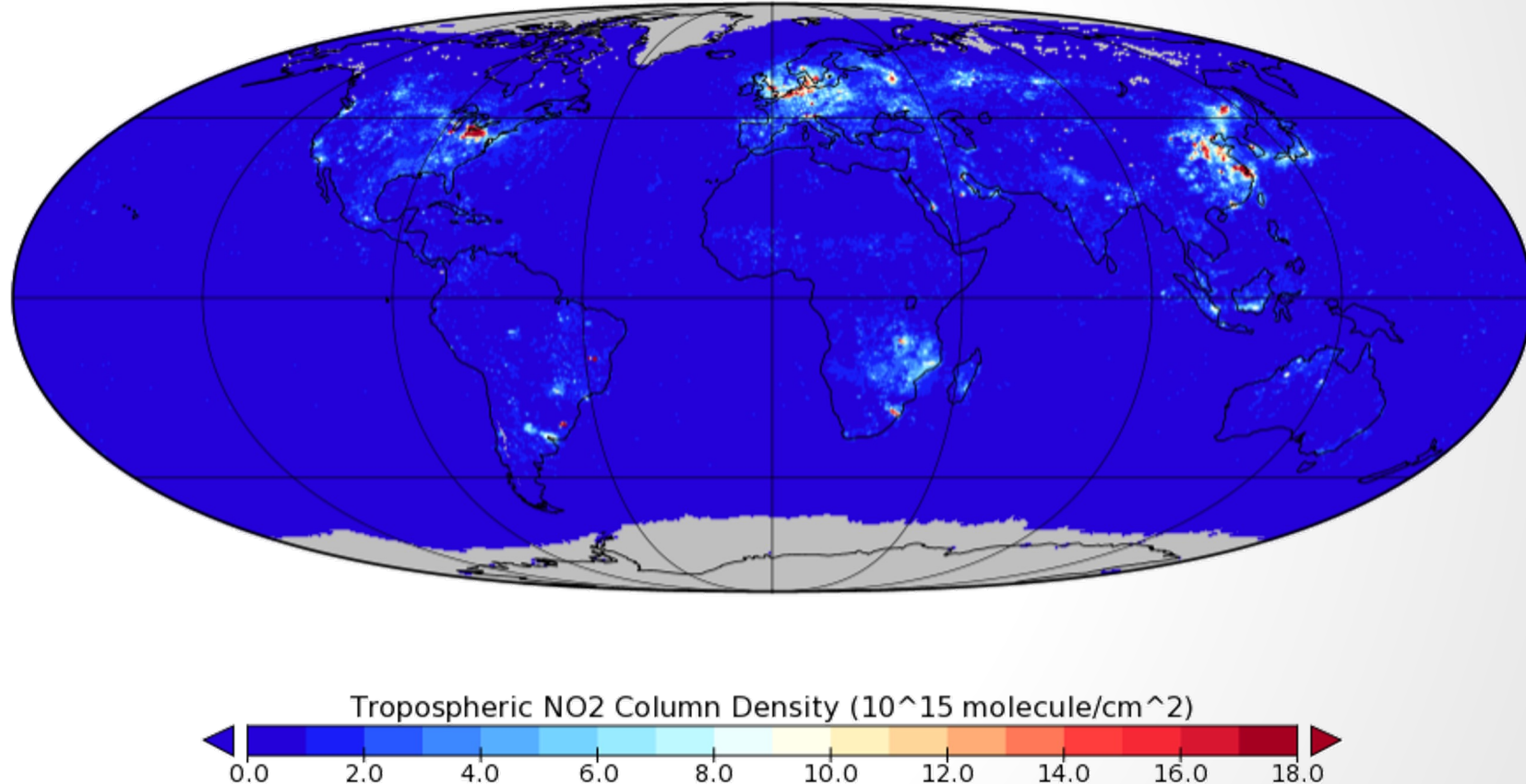
OMI: long data record for trends

- OMNO2 standard level 2 product
- OMNO2g gridded products

TROPOMI: high resolution

- S5P_L2__NO2__HiR
- Available from NASA Earthdata by agreement with ESA

OMNO2d Level 3 Gridded (0.25° x 0.25°) Daily Product



Source: NASA GES DISC <https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Formaldehyde: VOC proxy, Ozone formation potential

Why measure HCHO?

- Major precursor for O_3
- proxy for total VOC chemical reactivity and isoprene emissions

Using HCHO/ NO_2 Ratios

- $HCHO/NO_2 < 1$: VOC-Limited
- $HCHO/NO_2 > 2-4$: NO_x -Limited

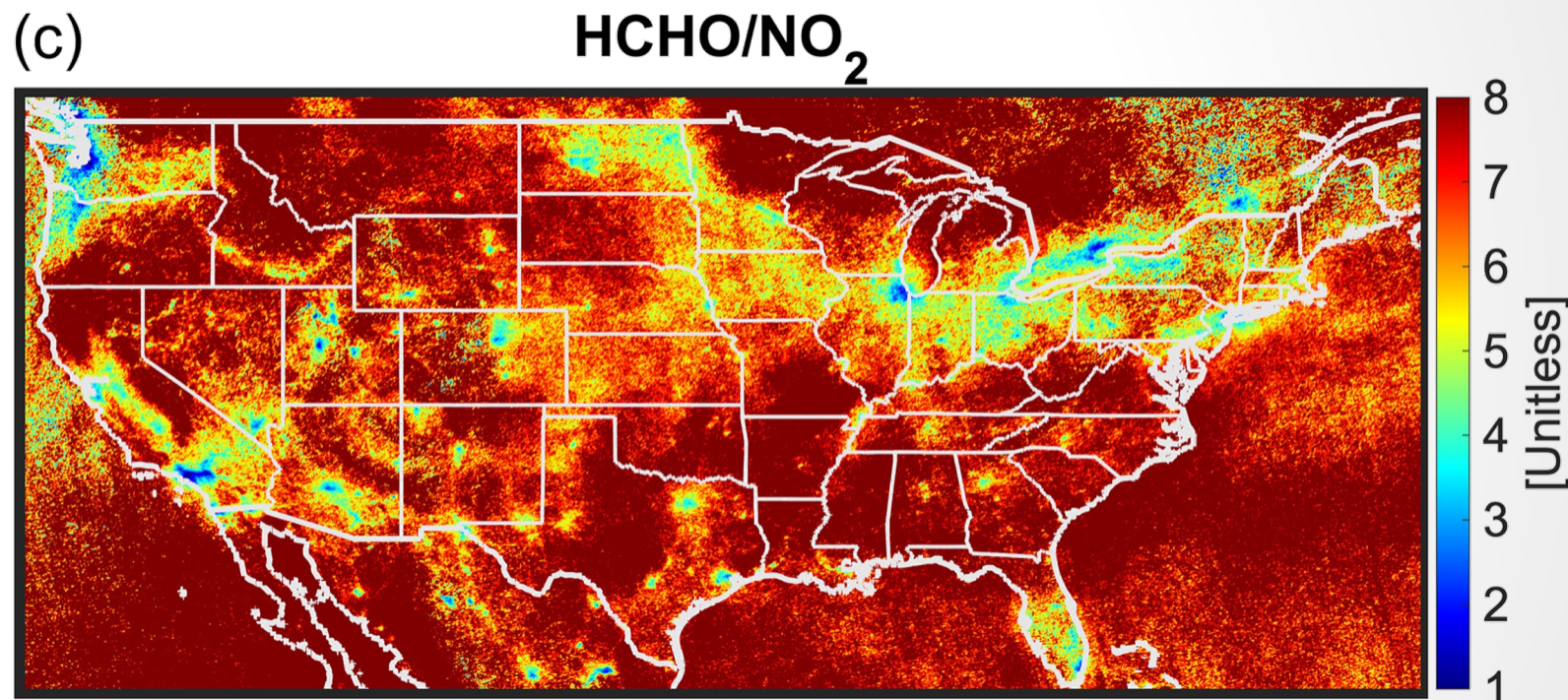
OMI: long data record for trends

- OMHCHO level 2 product
- OMHCHOG gridded products

TROPOMI: high resolution

- S5P_L2__HCHO__HiR_2
- Available from NASA Earthdata by agreement with ESA

Comparing HCHO and NO_2 from TROPOMI to determine
Ozone Formation Potential over the US



Source: Souri et al. 2023, Characterization of errors in satellite-based HCHO/ NO_2 tropospheric column ratios with respect to chemistry, column-to-PBL translation, spatial representation, and retrieval uncertainties.

<https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-23-1963-2023>

SO₂: Volcanoes and other major sources are detectable

Why measure SO₂?

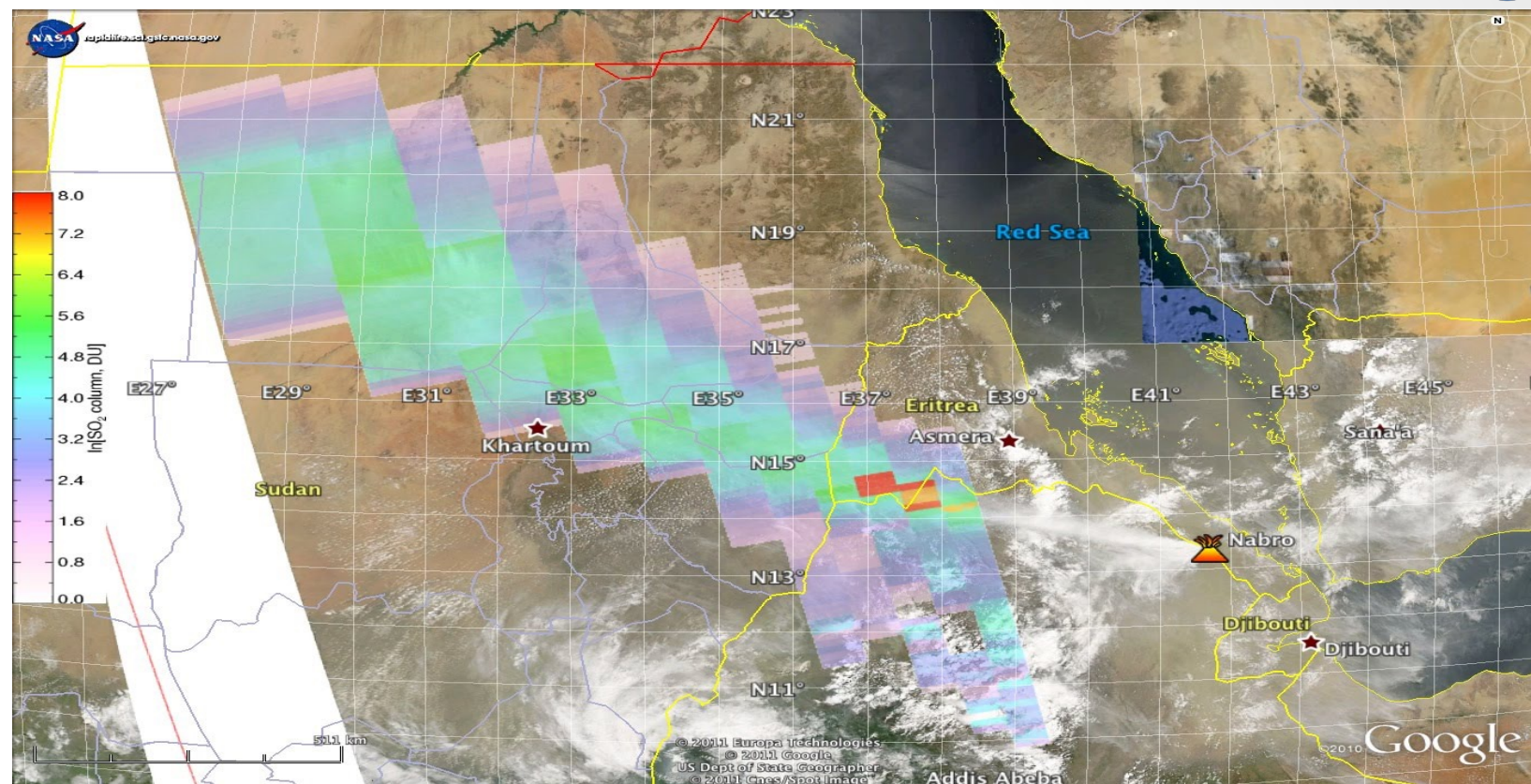
- SO₂ has also been linked to adverse respiratory effects.
- Contributes to acid deposition
- Sources: Volcanoes, coal and oil burning

OMI: long data record for trends

- OMISO2 standard level 2 product
- OMISO2e gridded data product, assumes near-surface emissions (most relevant to air quality)

TROPOMI: high resolution

- S5P_L2_SO2_HiR
- Available from NASA Earthdata by agreement with ESA



Aqua MODIS visible image of the Nabro (Eritrea) eruption on June 13, 2011, with the OMI SO₂ plume overlaid.

CO & Methane: new capabilities from TROPOMI

Why measure CO?

- Major precursor for O₃
- Relatively long lifetime (~1-2 months) makes it a useful tracer

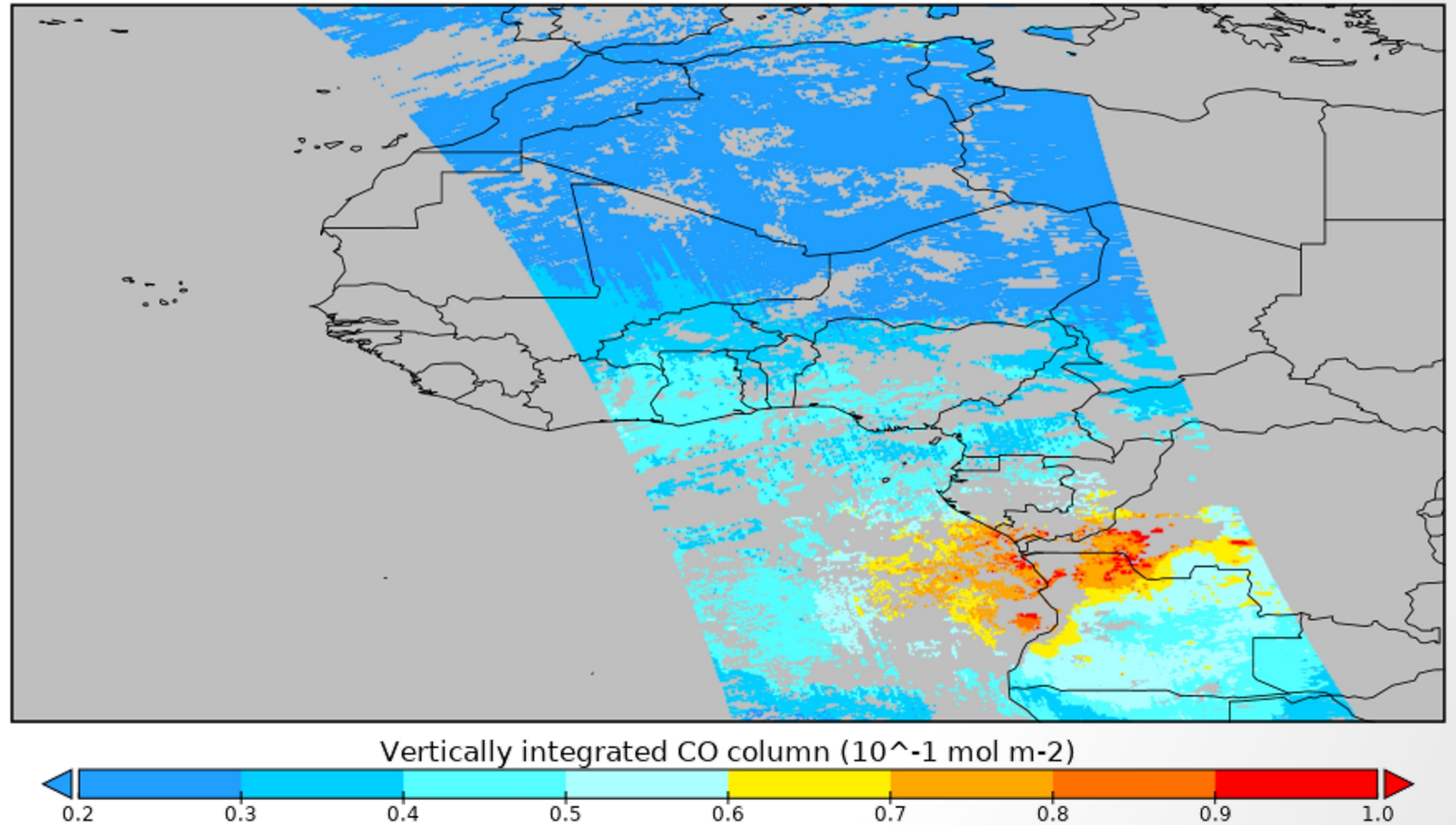
Why measure CH₄?

- Potent greenhouse gas
- “Super-emitter” point sources (natural gas leaks)
- Distributed sources (agriculture) hard to quantify from ground

TROPOMI: high resolution

- S5P_L2_CO____HiR
- S5P_L2_CH4____HiR
- Available from NASA Earthdata by agreement with ESA

Copernicus Sentinel-5P TROPOMI Carbon Monoxide Product (Orbit# 9408)



Source: NASA GES DISC <https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Emissions from Satellites

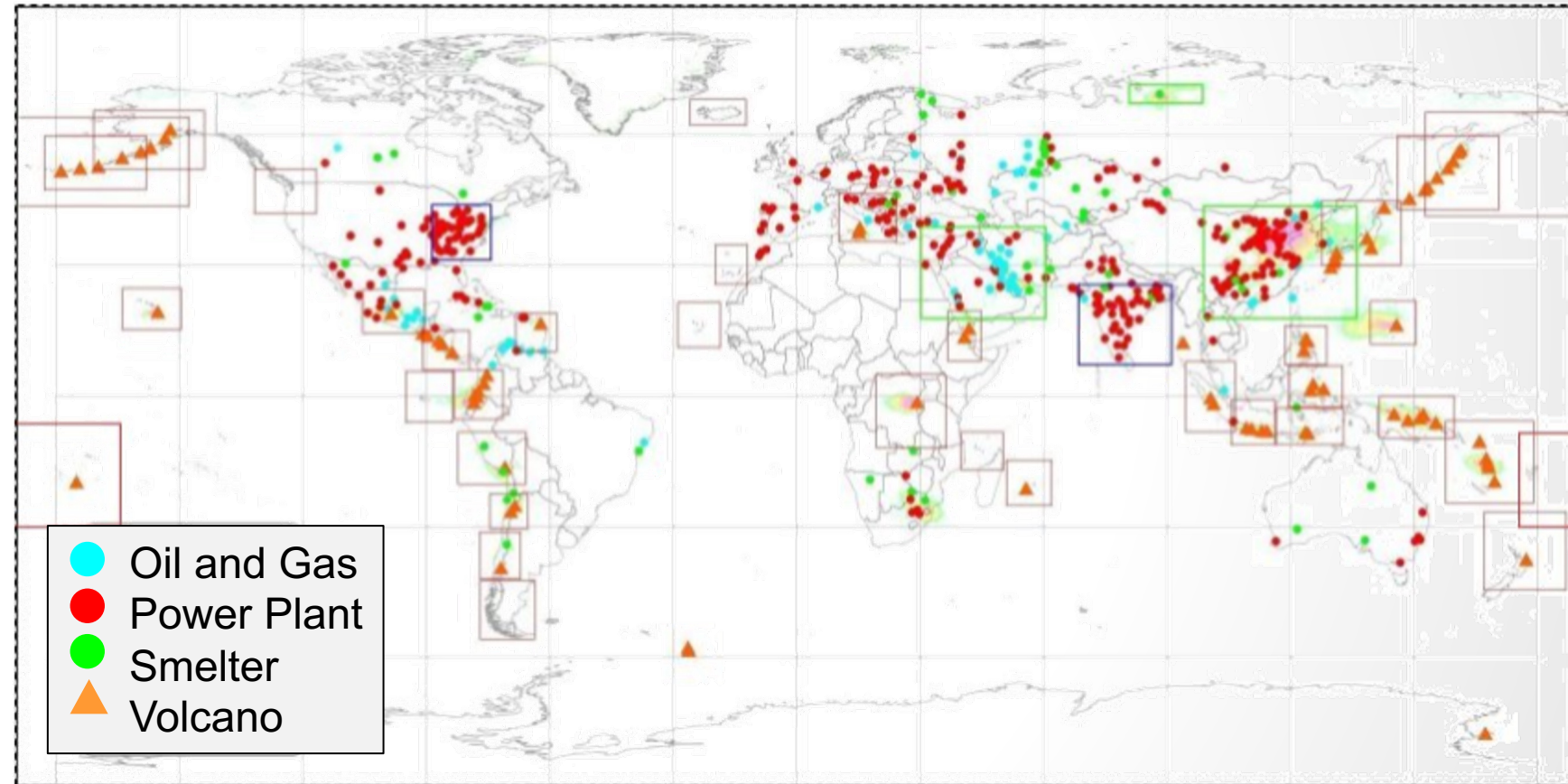
Developing a bottom-up emission inventory requires extensive data collection from many sources

- Costly
- Time-consuming
- May be incomplete

Satellites can estimate top-down emissions inventories

- Can keep pace with changing emissions
- May detect missing sources
- Many uncertainties in deriving emissions from satellite data

Red = daily volcanic regions, green = daily pollution regions, blue = long-term pollution images



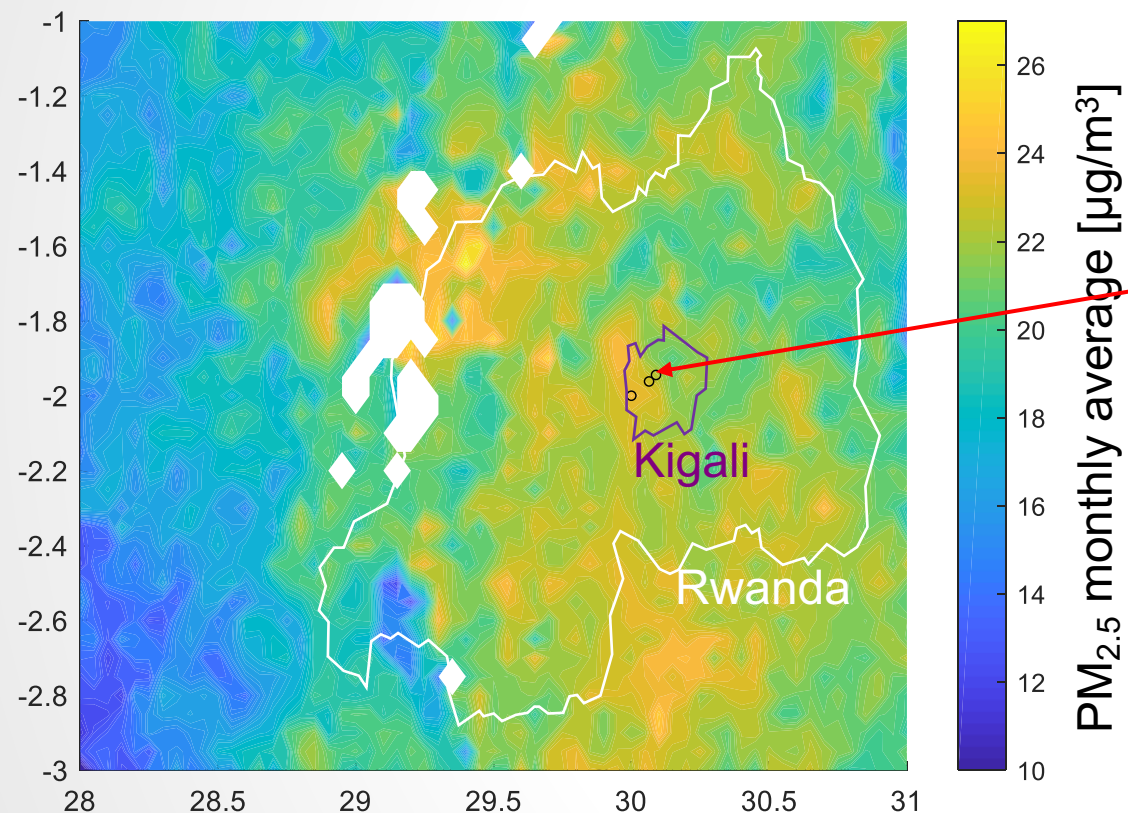
Source: NASA Global Sulfur Dioxide Monitoring Home Page <https://so2.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



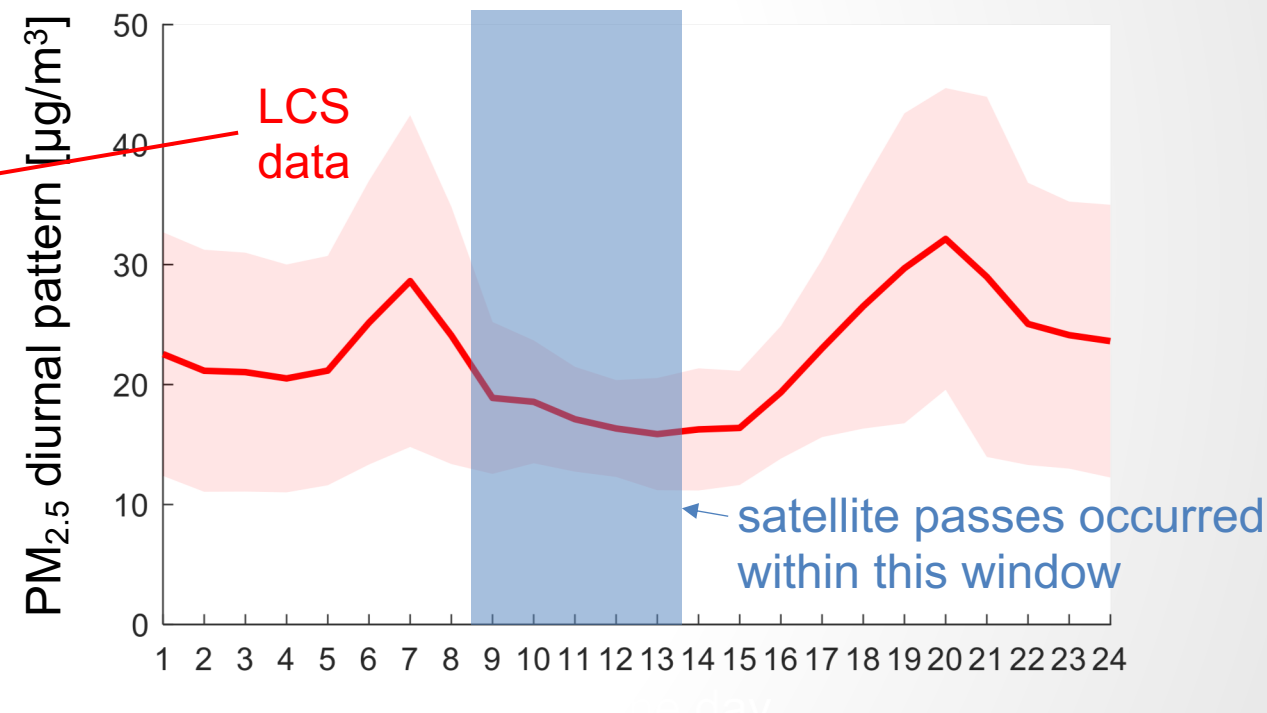
Satellite Data for Air Quality Integration with Surface Data

Satellites and low-cost sensors can be complementary

Spatial Coverage (satellite)

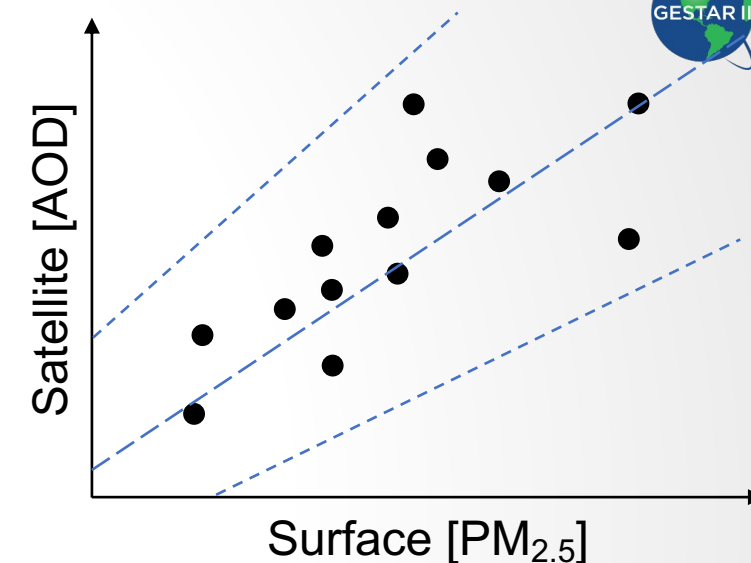
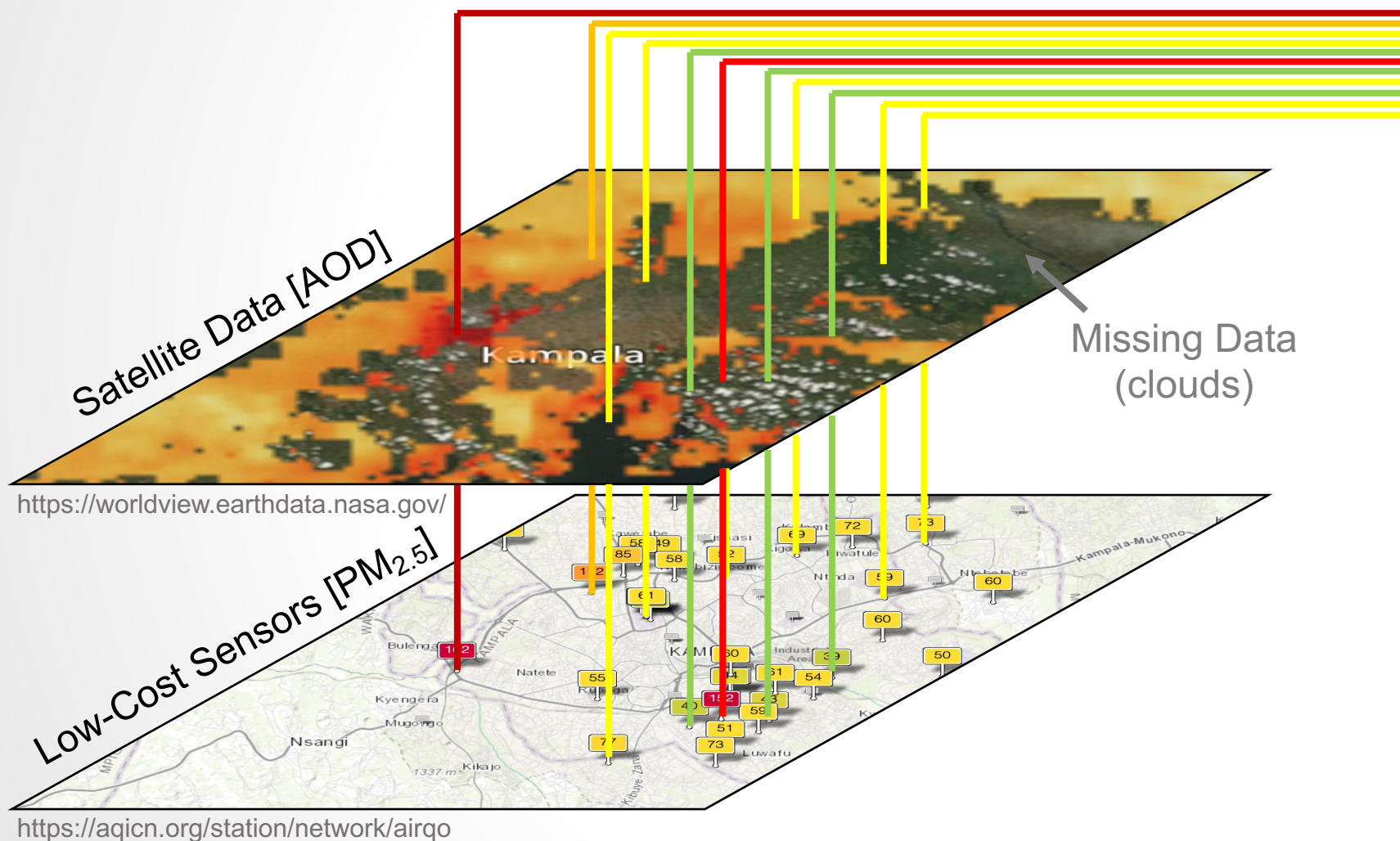


Temporal Coverage (LCS)



Source: Malings et al. (2020), "Application of low-cost fine particulate mass monitors to convert satellite AOD to surface concentrations in North America and Africa" *Atmospheric Measurement Techniques*. DOI: 10.5194/amt-13-3873-2020

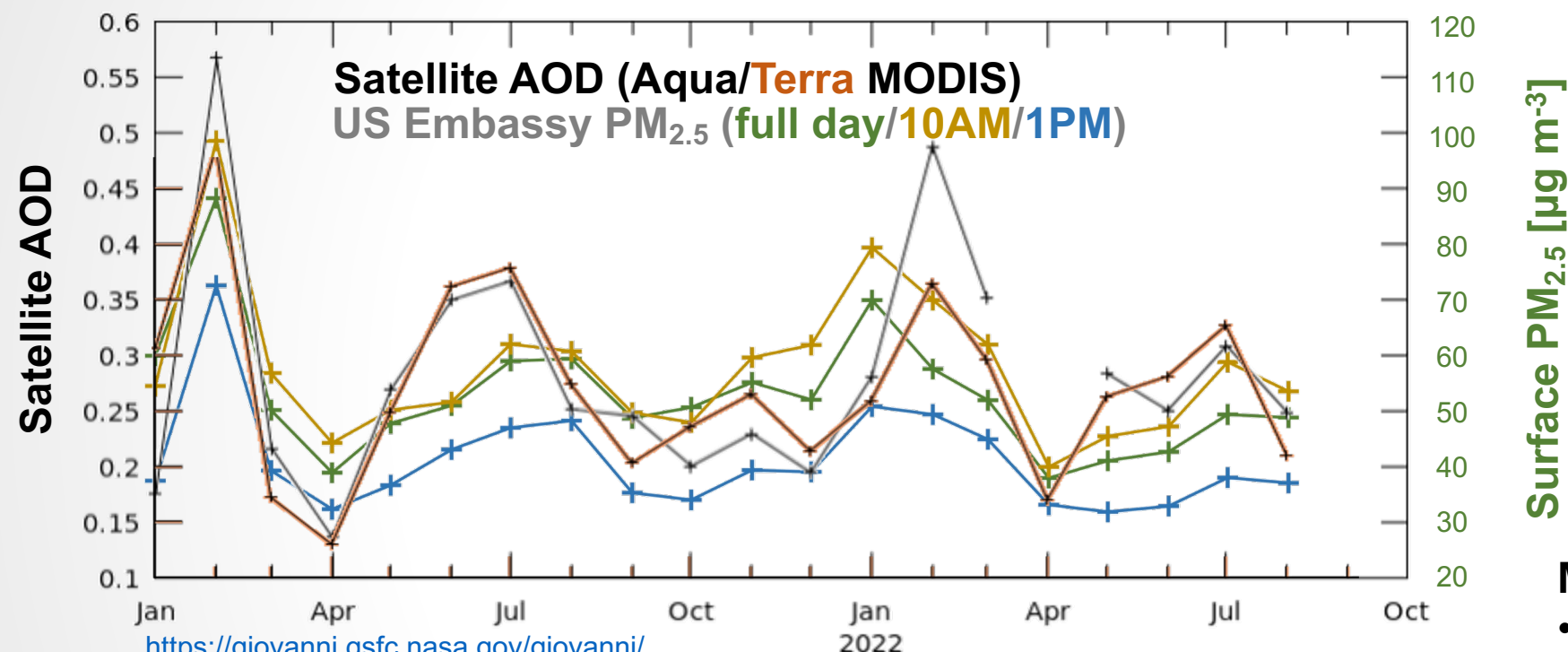
Spatial Correlations: do satellites capture patterns?



Many confounding factors

- Averaging Time
- Time-of-day bias
- Seasonality
- Cloud Cover
- Land Use

Temporal Correlations: do satellites capture trends?

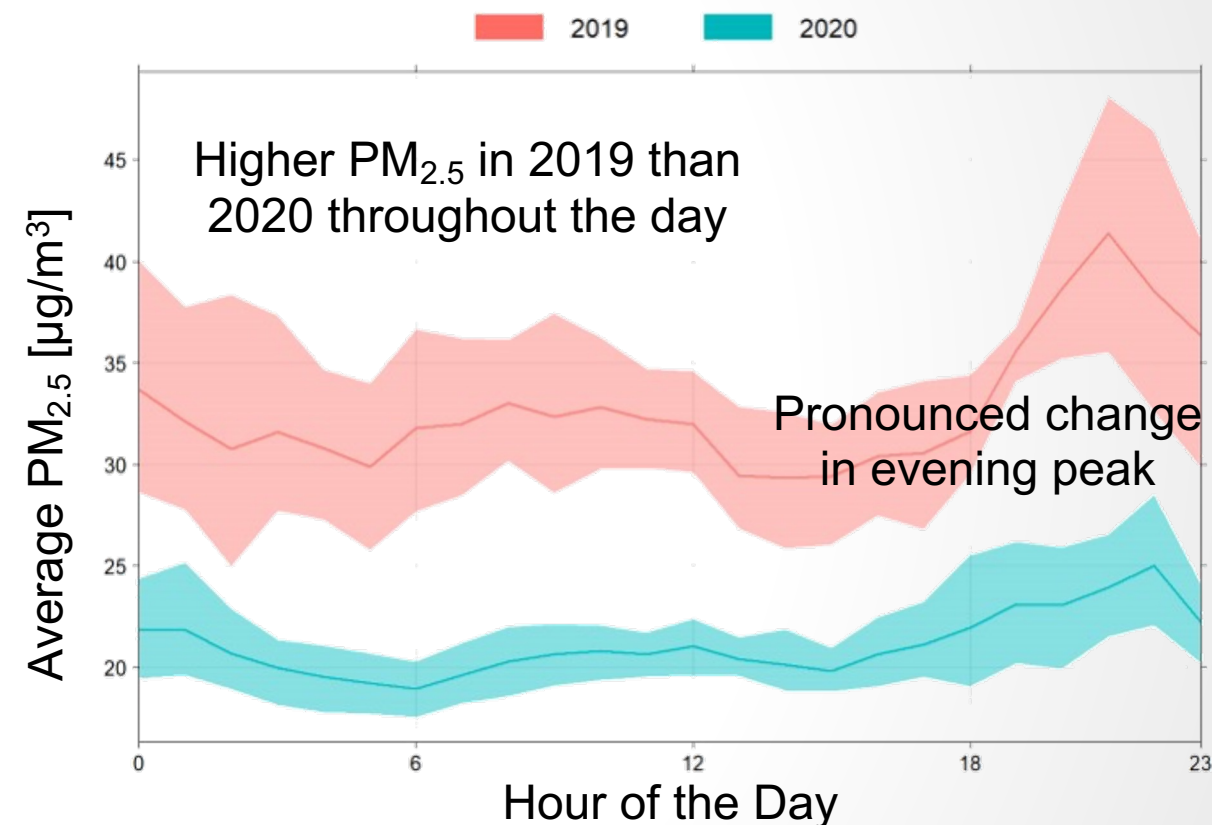
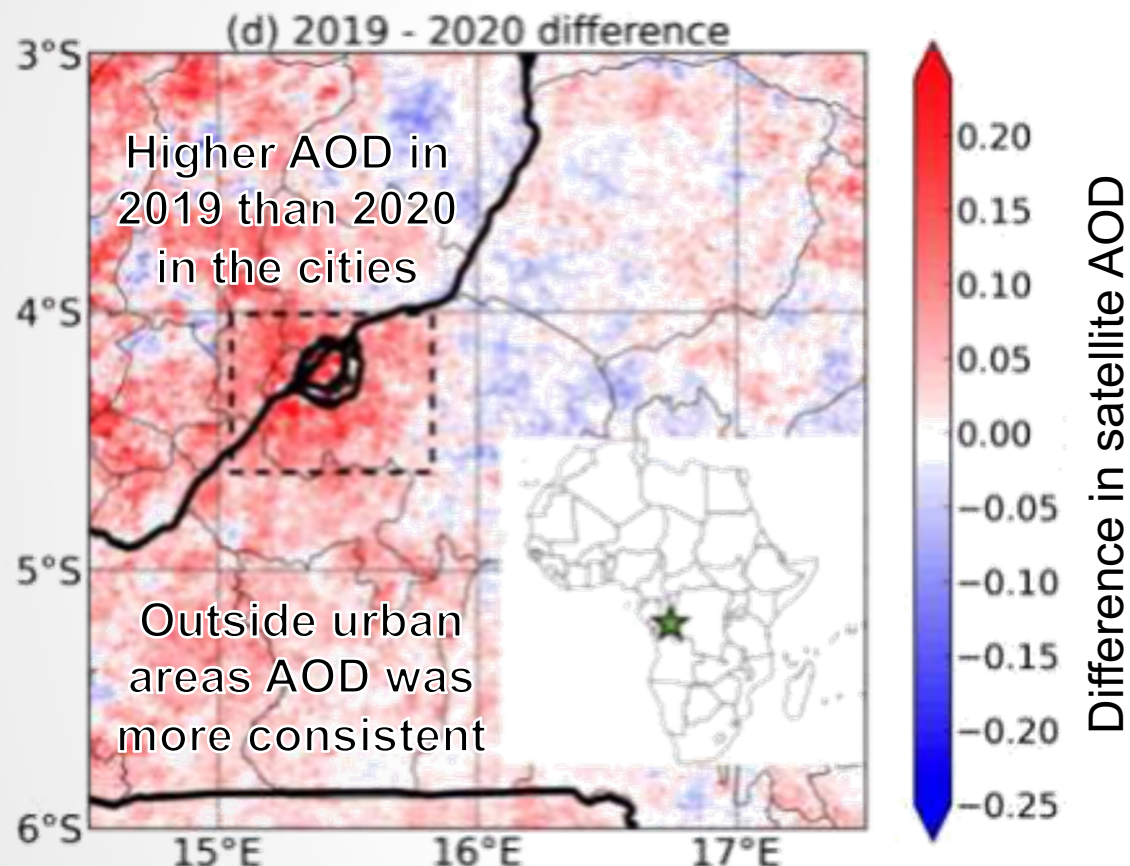


<https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni/>
<https://www.airnow.gov/international/us-embassies-and-consulates/>

Example: trends in Kampala (0-1N,32-33E) for 1+ year

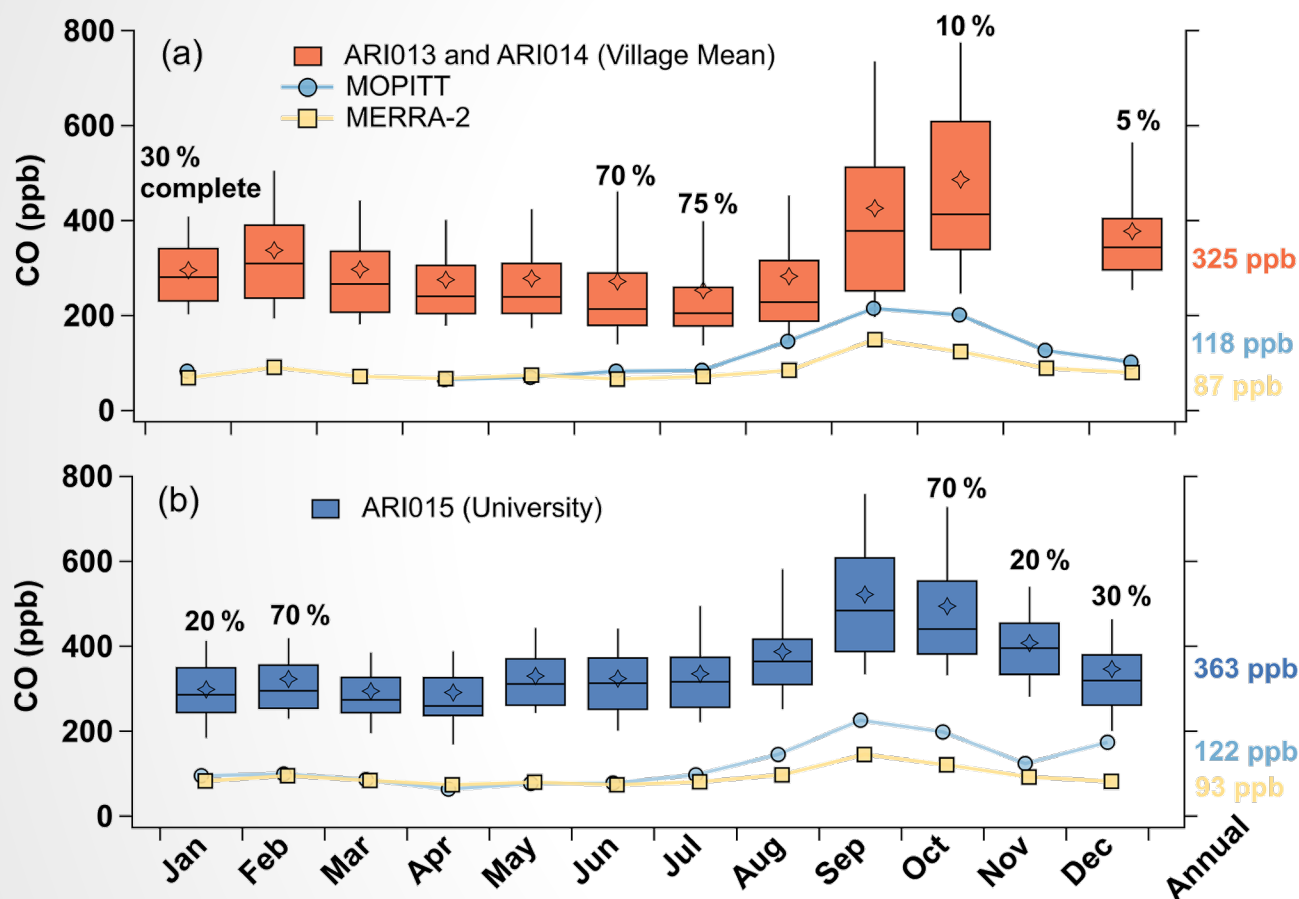
Trends at US embassy may not represent city-wide trends

Qualitative: COVID-19 impact in Brazzaville & Kinshasa



Source: McFarlane et al. (2021). "First Measurements of Ambient $PM_{2.5}$ in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazzaville, Republic of Congo Using Field-calibrated Low-cost Sensors." Aerosol and Air Quality Research, 21. DOI: 10.4209/aaqr.200619.

Quantitative Comparison & Validation: CO in Malawi



ARISENSE Low-Cost Sensor Package

MOPITT Satellite

MERRA-2 Reanalysis (Model + Satellite)

Data sources agree on trends

- Higher CO in urban than rural areas
- Higher CO in burning season (Aug-Nov)

Data sources disagree on magnitudes

- Satellite ~30% higher than model during peaks
- LCS 2-4x higher than model or satellite

Numerous confounding factors

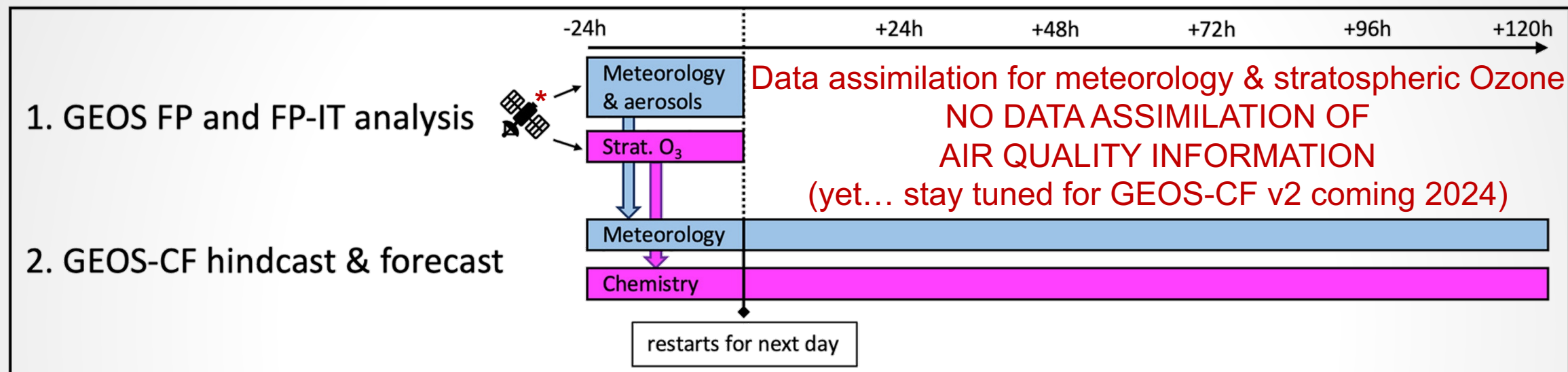
- No reference for region-specific LCS calibration
- Hyper-local sources (cooking, traffic)
- Once-daily MOPITT satellite passes

Source: Bittner et al. (2022) "Performance characterization of low-cost air quality sensors for off-grid deployment in rural Malawi." Atmospheric Measurement Techniques. 15:11. DOI: 10.5194/amt-15-3353-2022

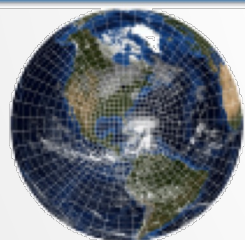


Satellite Data for Air Quality Integration with Global Models

GEOS-CF: NASA global air quality forecast model

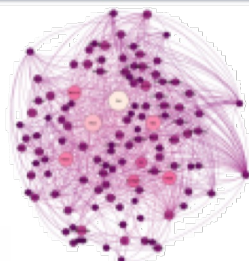


GEOS
Meteorology



+

GEOS-Chem
Chemistry



- Combine GEOS meteorology with GEOS-Chem chemistry
- 250 chemical species
- Hourly temporal resolution
- 0.25 degree (25 km) spatial resolution
- Global coverage
- Daily 1-day replay and 5-day forecast

Source: Keller, C., et al. (2021) "Description of the NASA GEOS Composition Forecast Modeling System GEOS-CF v1.0". *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, 13:4.
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2020MS002413>

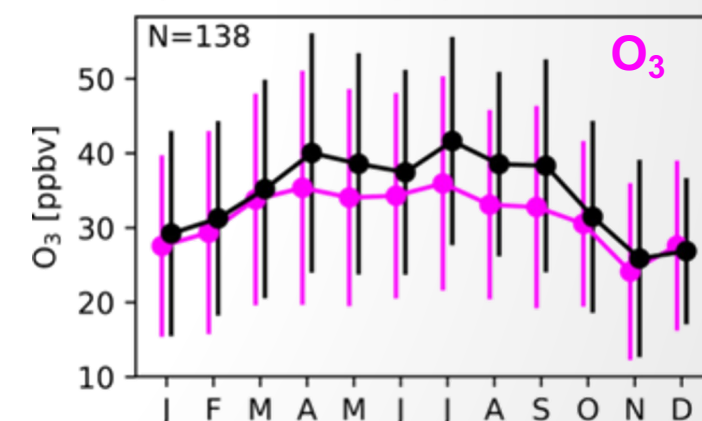
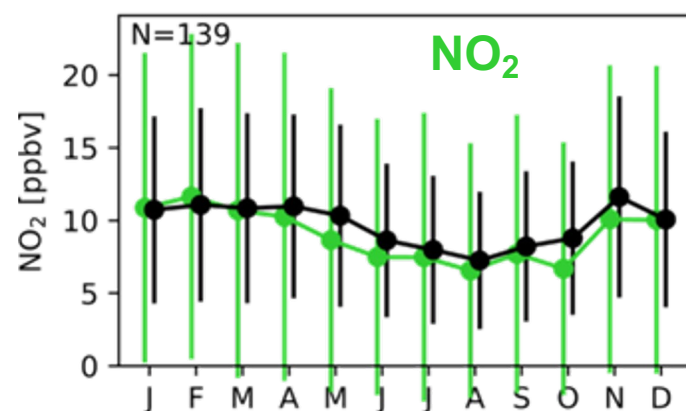
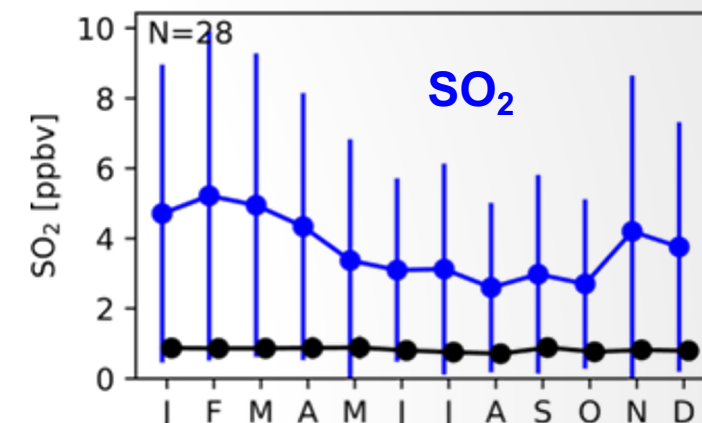
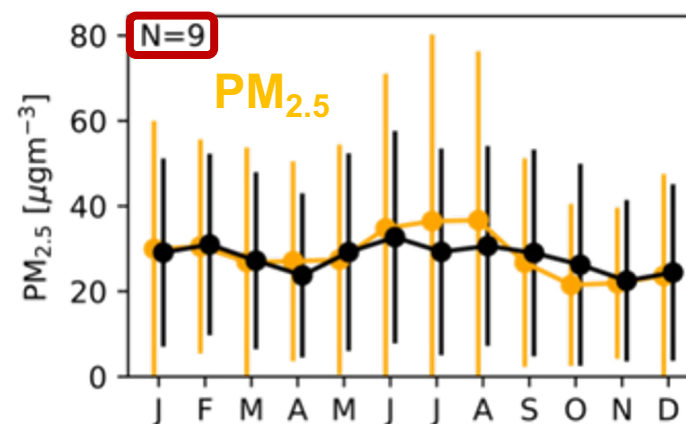
GEOS-CF performance evaluation

In general, GEOS-CF estimates and forecasts agree well with ground-based data for air quality relevant quantities.

HOWEVER:

- Agreement can vary annually, seasonally and by region.
- There can be high bias at individual locations due to local impacts.
- Many regions have limited ground data for verification.
- Some pollutants are not well represented yet (SO_2 is biased high globally).

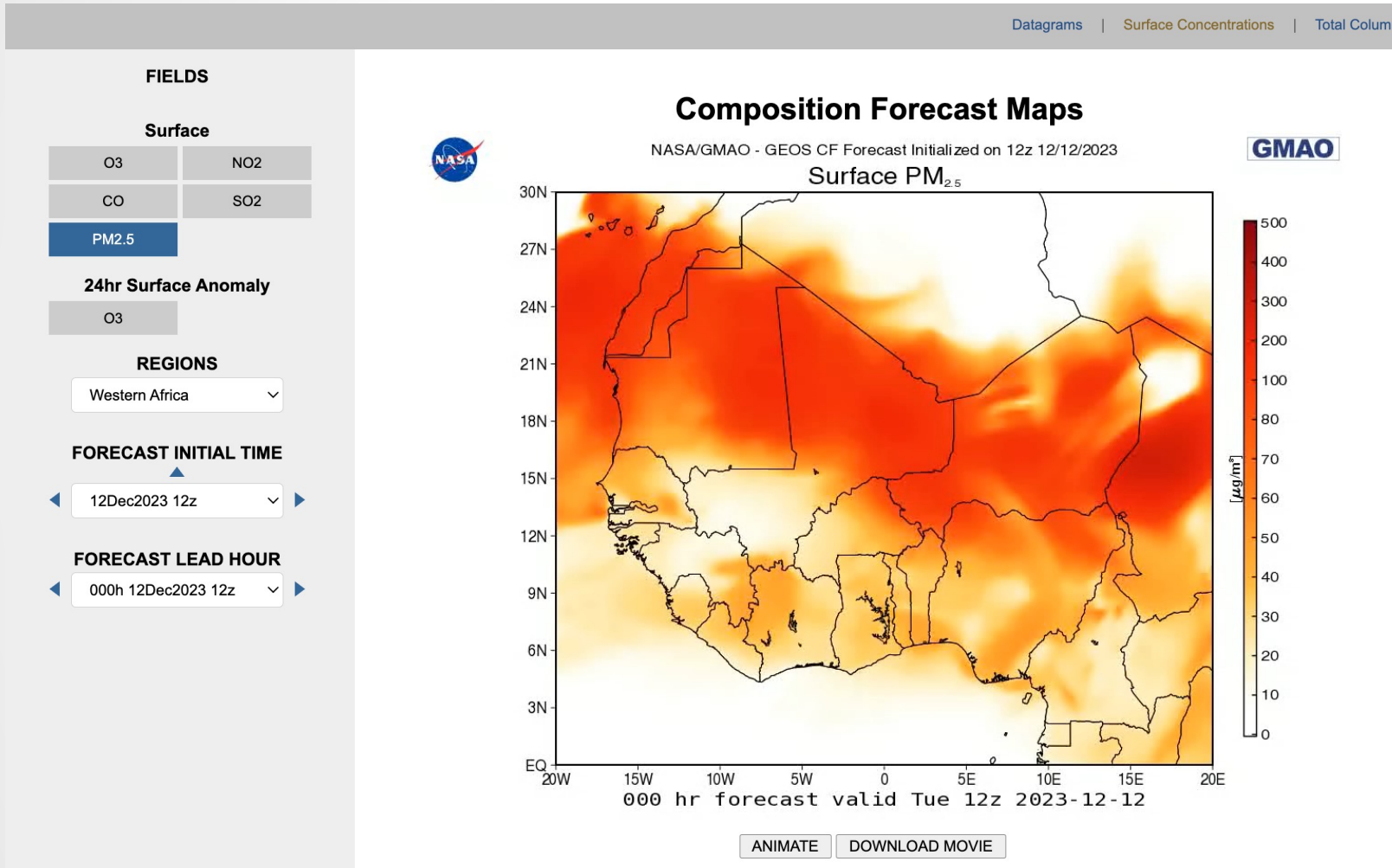
Monthly average concentrations at sites in Africa



GEOS ground data

Source: Keller, C., et al. (2021) "Description of the NASA GEOS Composition Forecast Modeling System GEOS-CF v1.0". *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, 13:4.
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2020MS002413>

Visualizing GEOS-CF forecasts in GMAO FLUID



The GMAO FLUID website provides access to visualizations of GMAO data products, including

GEOS-CF replay and forecast surface concentration maps and animations are available globally and for regions.

Pre-generated “datagrams” for world cities depict the forecast time series and details.

Custom interfaces are often developed to support NASA airborne campaigns.

Source: GMAO FLUID for GEOS-CF <https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/cf/>

GEOS-CF interactive map and forecast datagrams

Available Products

NO₂O₃PM_{2.5}

Geotiff Forecast Selection

Forecast Date

20231212

Forecast Time

1230

Colormap Options

plasma

Quick Stations

NATIONAL

--Select a Station--

WORLD

--Select a Station--

AERONET

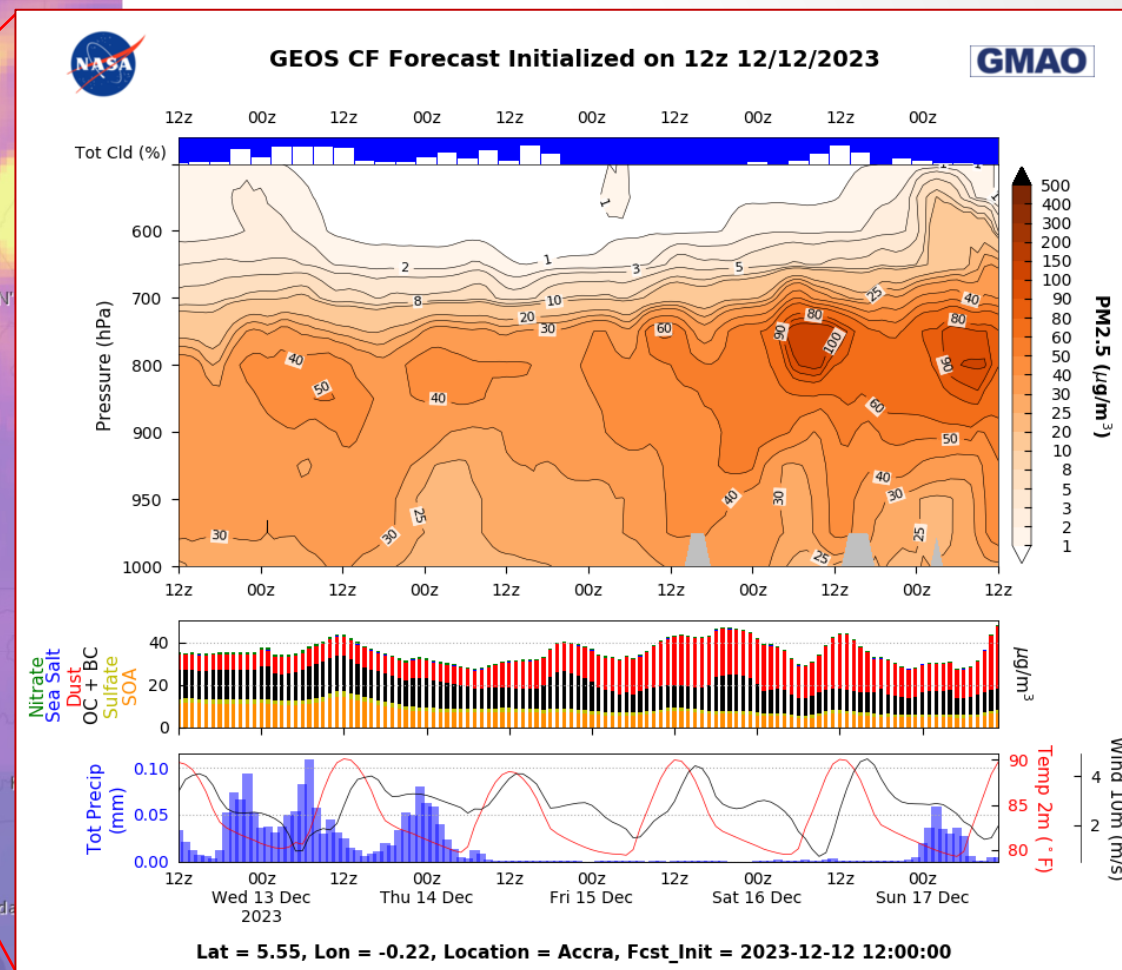
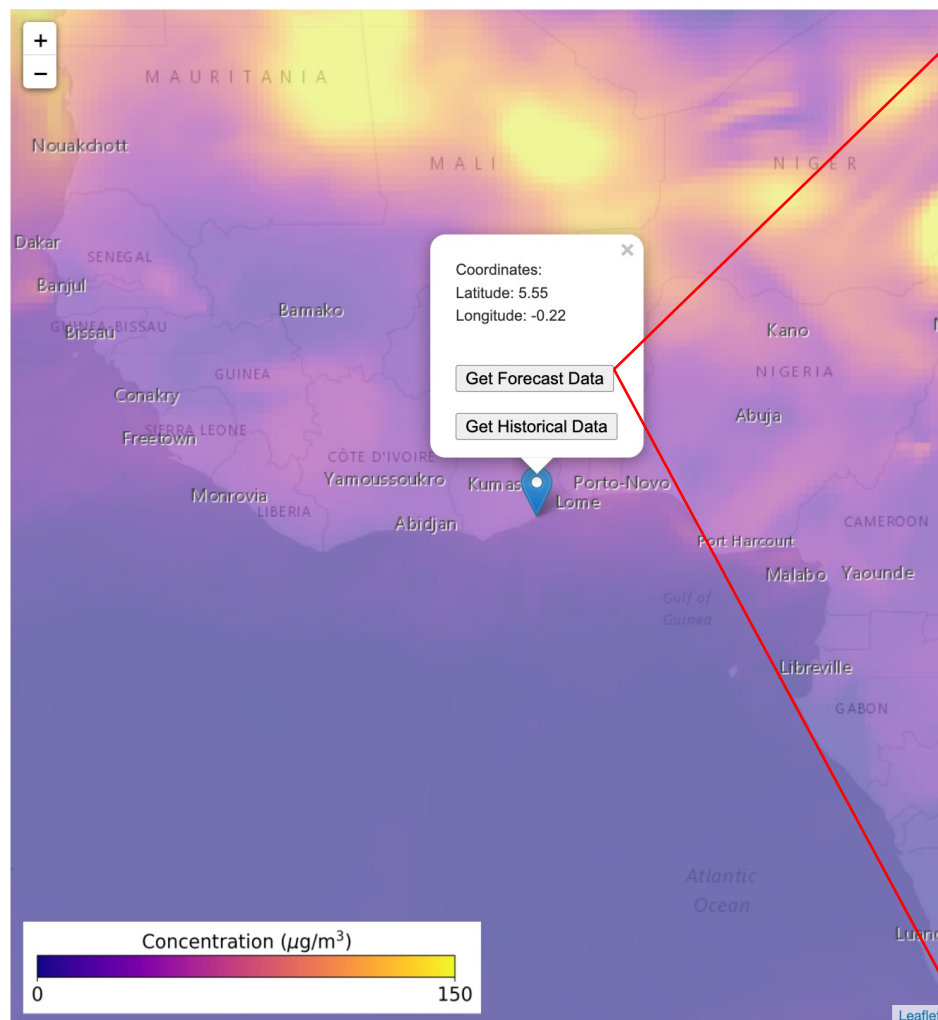
--Select a Station--

MEGACITIES

Accra

ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

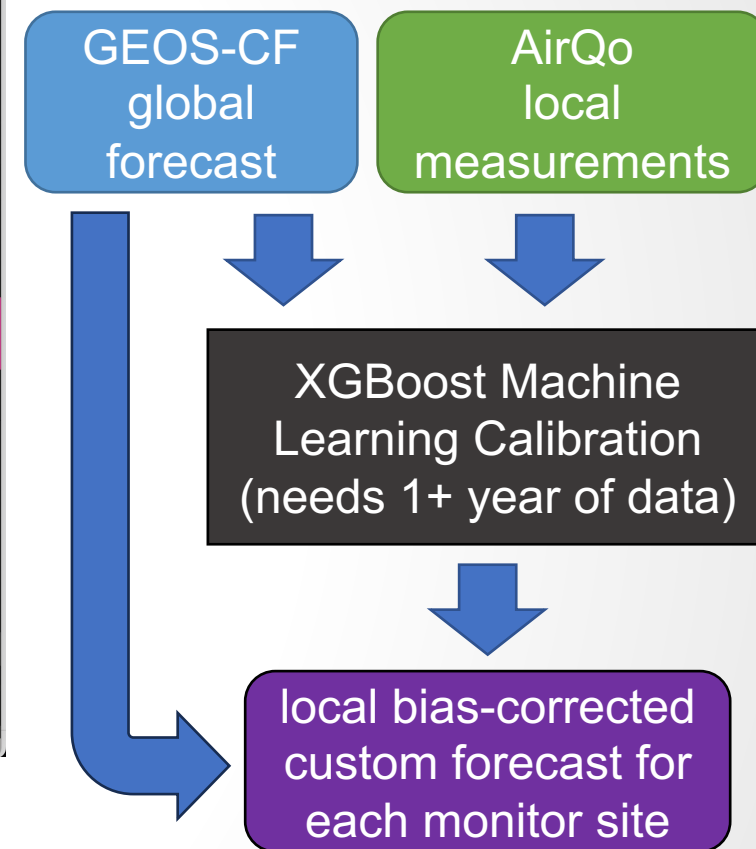
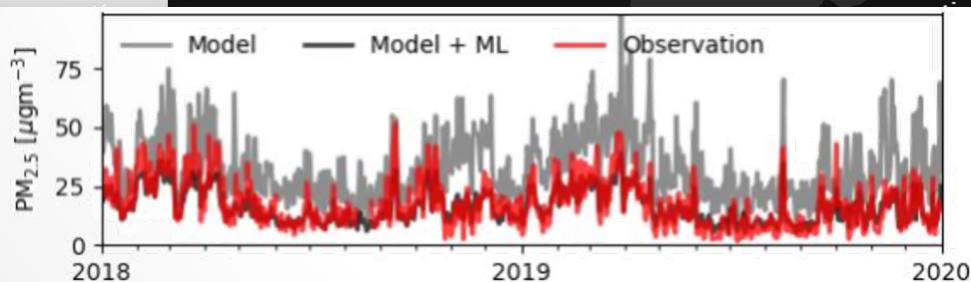
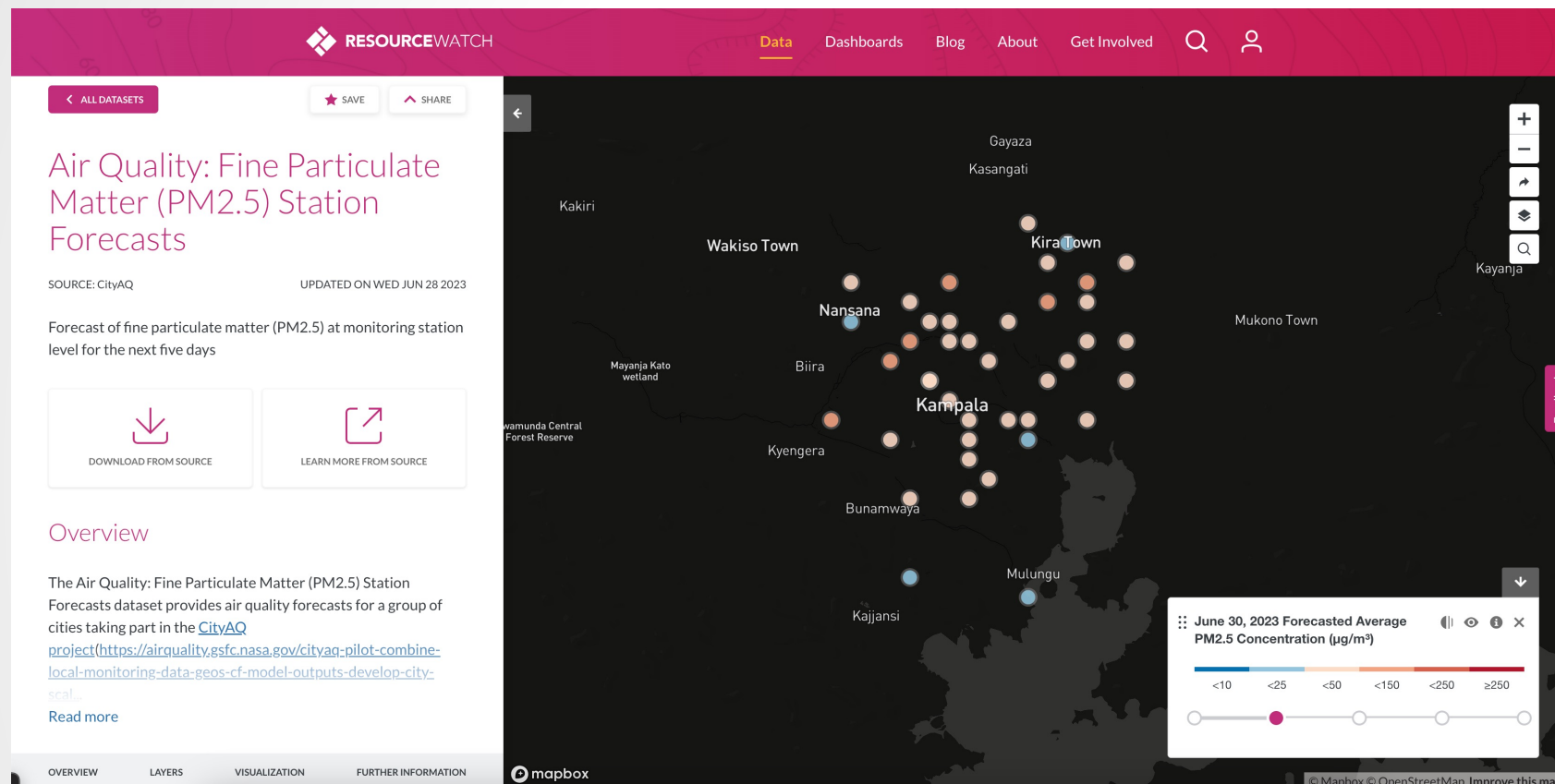
--Select a Station--

Source: FLUID interactive map https://fluid.nccs.nasa.gov/cf_map/



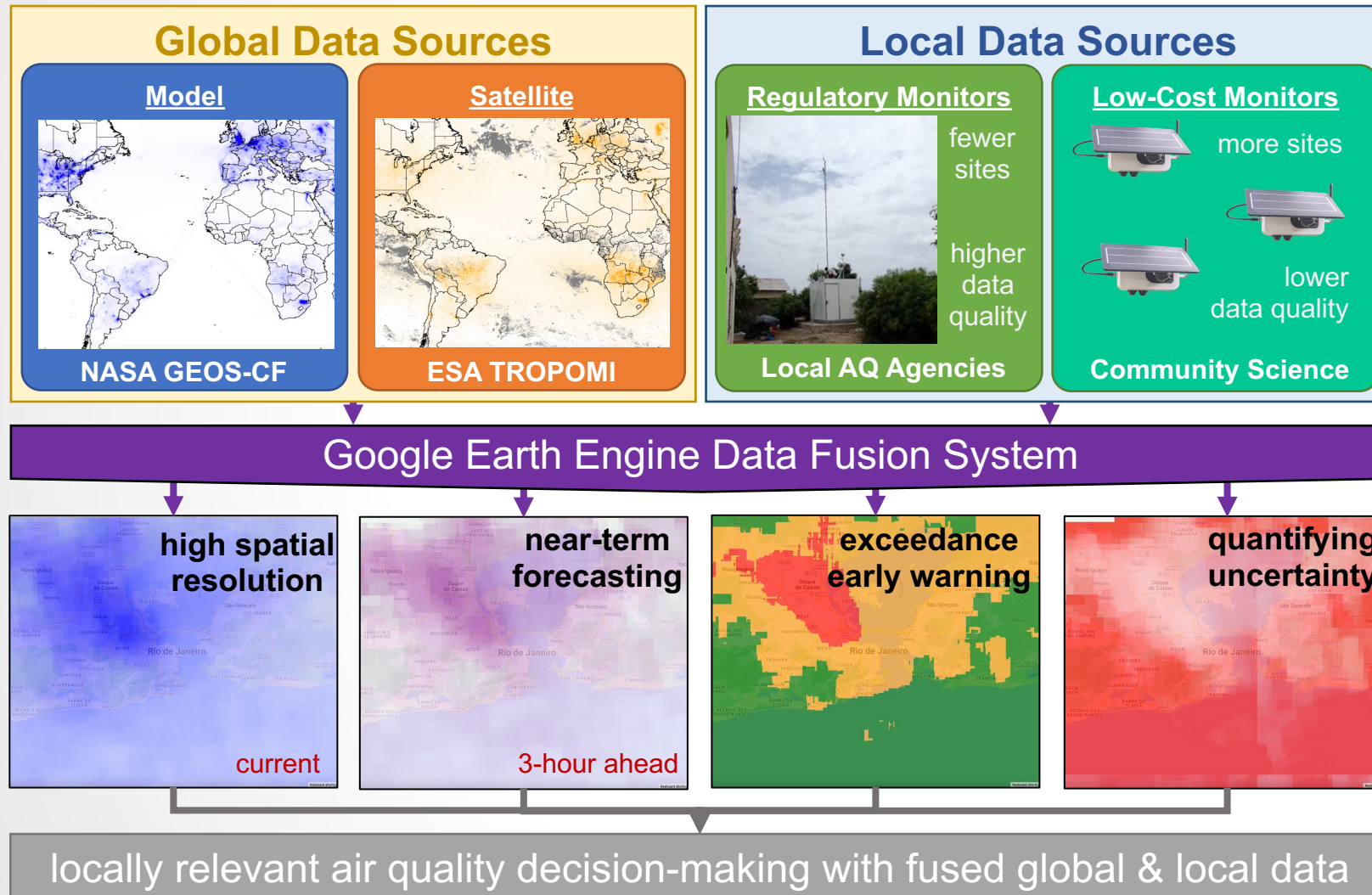
Data Fusion Approaches

WRI CanAIRy Alert: bias-corrected model forecasts



Source: World Resources Institute CanAIRy Alert
<https://www.wri.org/initiatives/canairy-alert>

Air Quality data fusion in Google Earth Engine



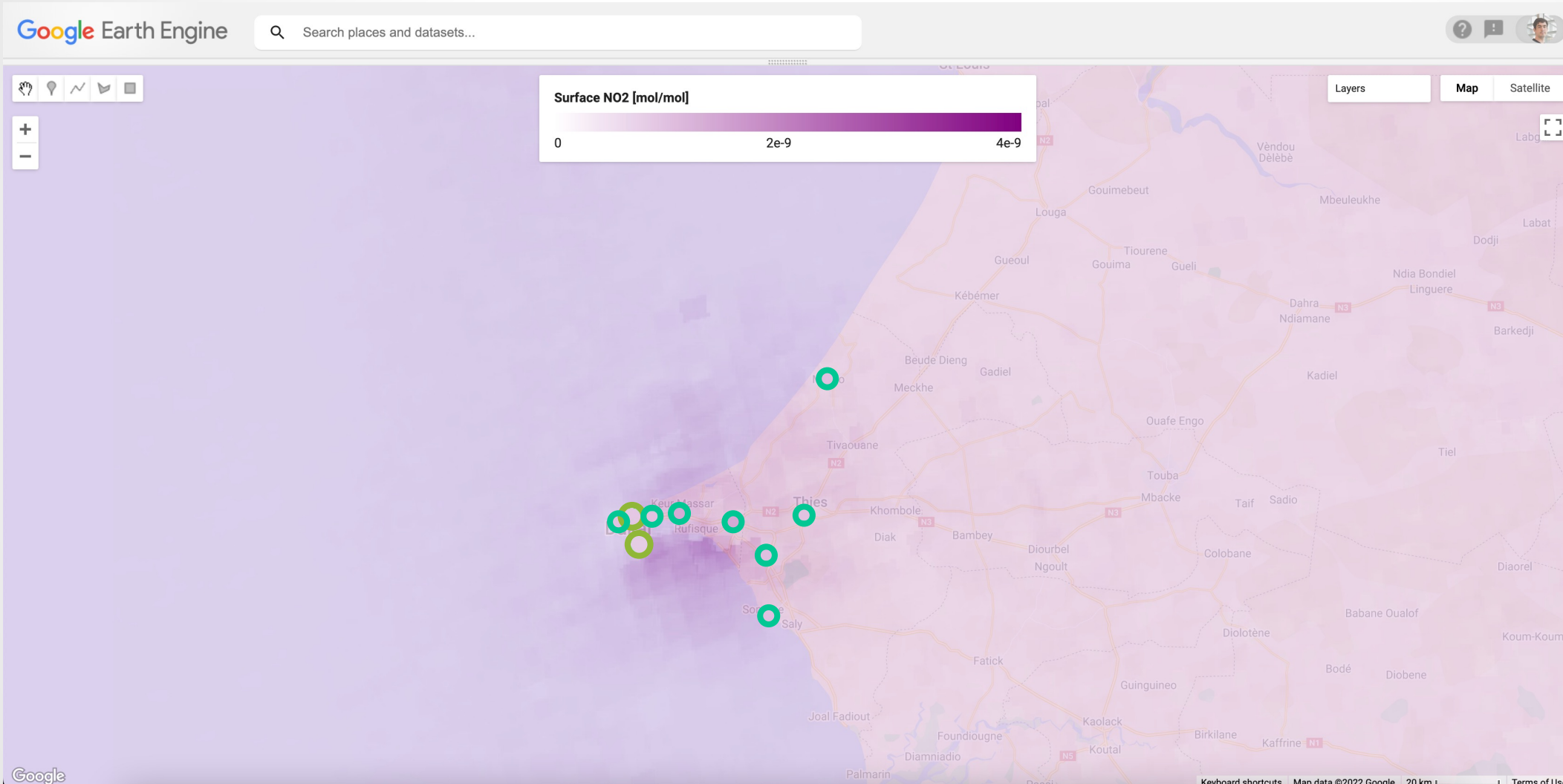
Our project integrates diverse **global** and **local** air quality data sources...

...using the cloud computing platform of **Google Earth Engine**...

...to provide synthesized **estimates** and **forecasts** of air quality at a **local scale** but with a **global scope**...

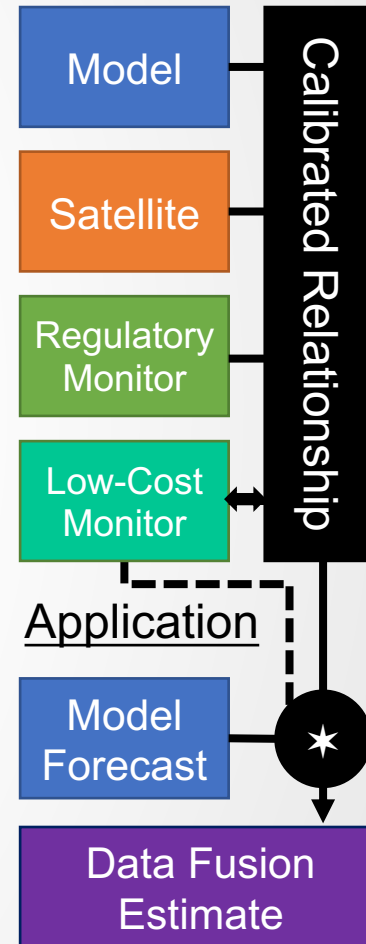
...which will be freely accessible by air quality managers worldwide, facilitating their **decision-making**.

Demonstration of Data Fusion in GEE (preliminary)



Source: <https://code.earthengine.google.com>

Calibration



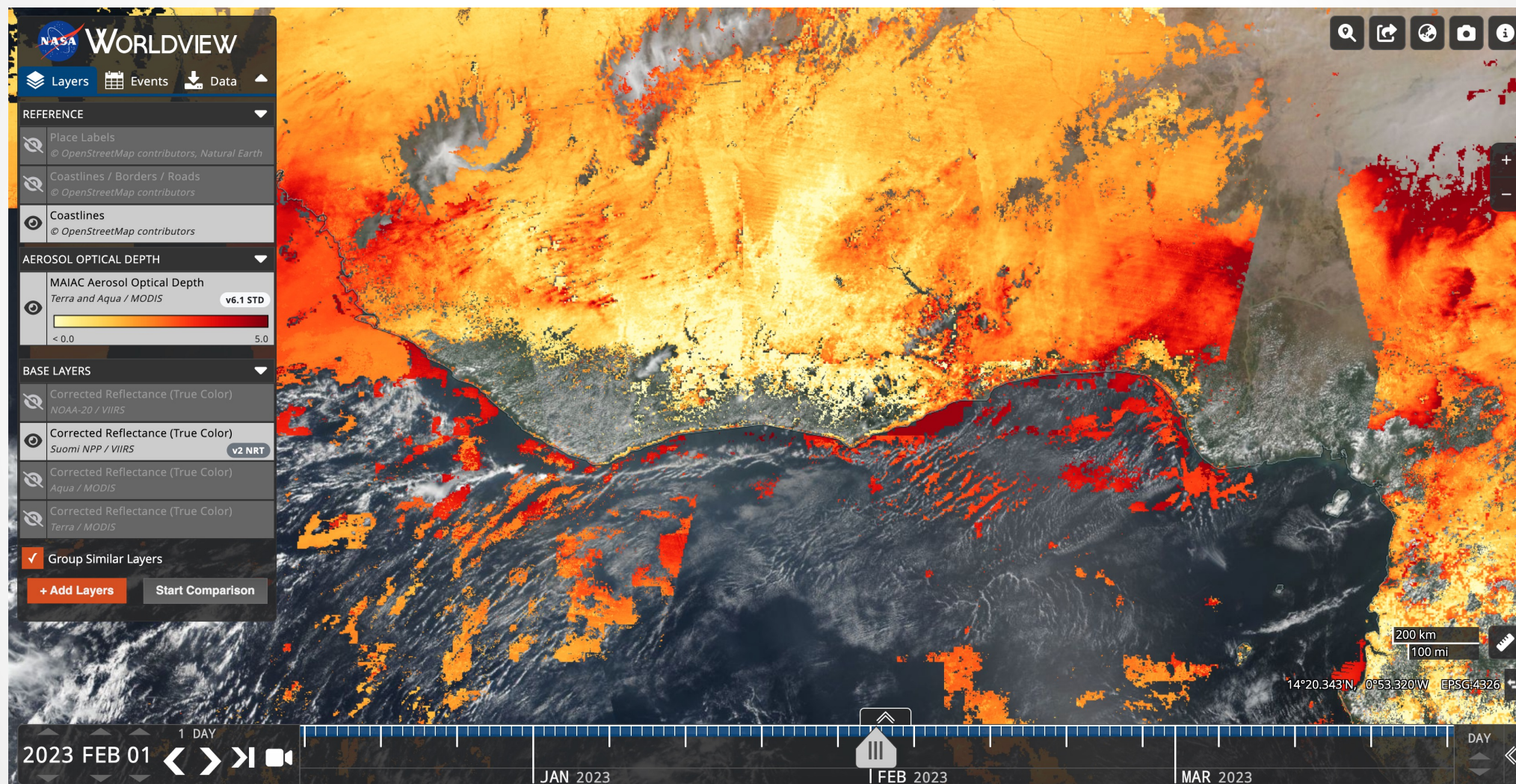
Application



NASA Data & Training Resources

NASA Worldview

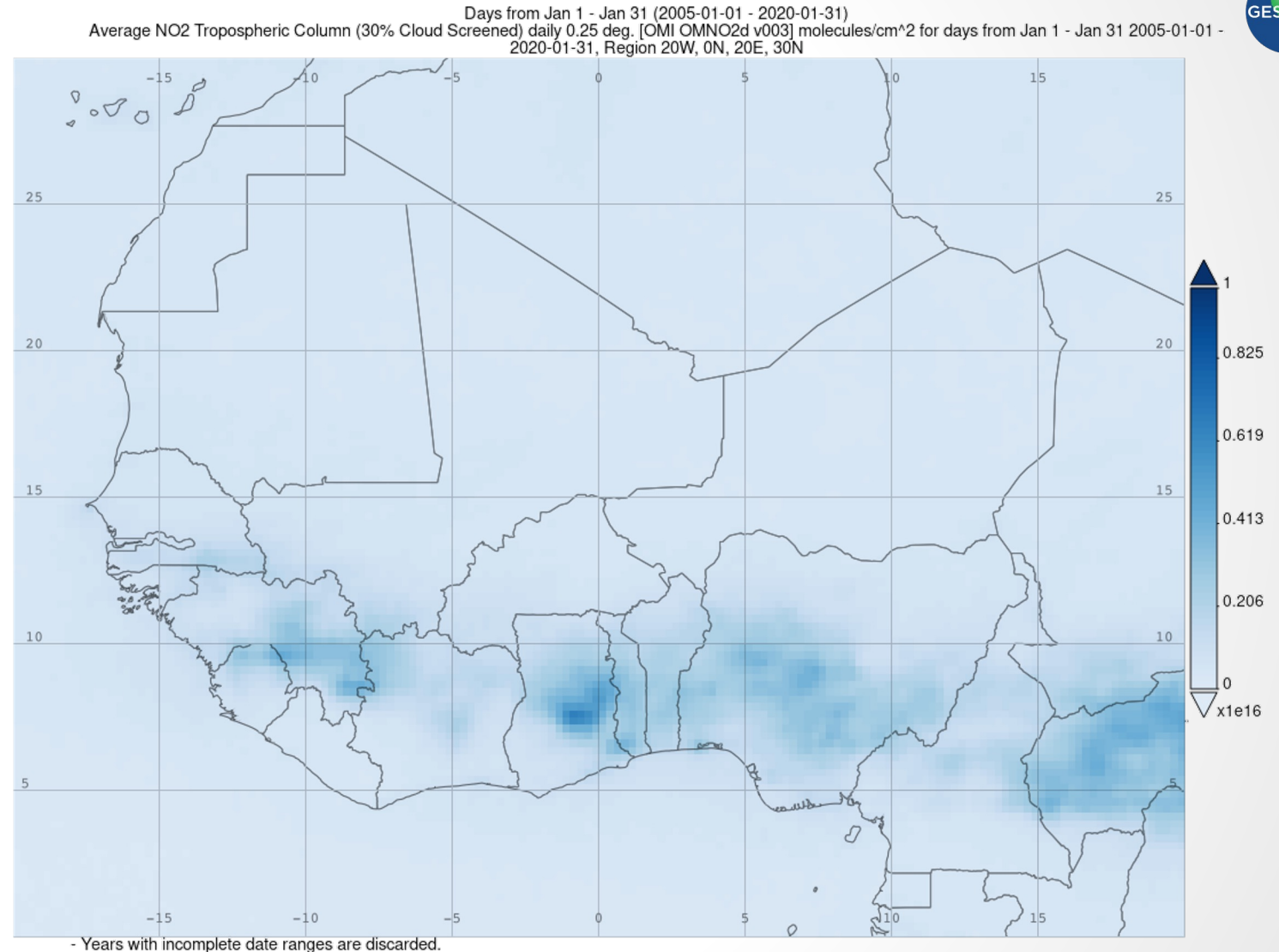
<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov>



NASA Giovanni

<https://giovanni.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni>

- Work online with many gridded NASA data products (Level 3 & 4)
- Perform simple analysis
 - spatial & temporal averaging
 - recurring/periodic averages
 - differences
- Plot results
 - area colormaps
 - time series
 - scatterplots
 - correlation plots
 - histograms
- Download data subsets
 - NetCDF
 - GeoTIFF
 - KMZ

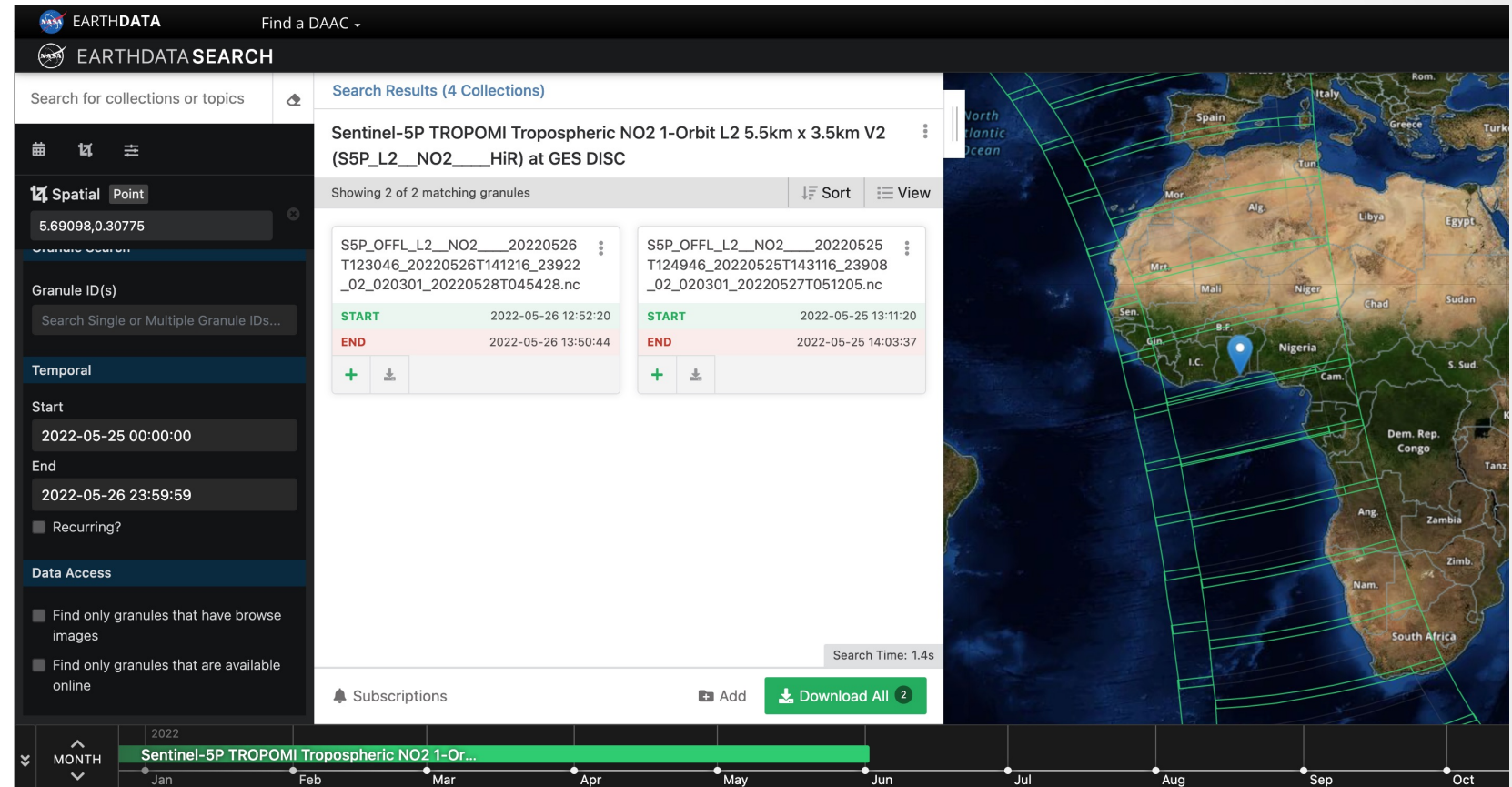


NASA Earthdata search

<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/>

Online tool for sub-setting and downloading NASA (and other) model & satellite datasets for offline analysis

- Search by spatial and temporal bounds
- Select and download relevant datasets
- Filter options for different spatial and temporal resolutions, processing levels, and data access options



Getting Started with the Health and Air Quality Data Pathfinder:

<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/pathfinders/health-and-air-quality-data-pathfinder>

NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training (ARSET)

<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/arset>

ARSET provides accessible, relevant, and cost-free training on remote sensing satellites, sensors, methods, and tools.

Our trainings are:

- Online and in-person
- Open to everyone
- Live, instructor-led, or self-guided
- Provided at no cost, with materials and recordings available from our website
- Often multi-lingual
- Tailored to those with a range of experience in remote sensing, from **introductory** to **advanced**



ARSET offers trainings for:

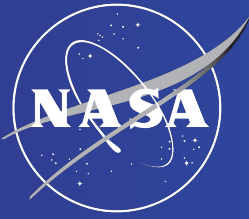
- Disasters
- Health & Air Quality
- Land Management
- Water Resources
- Climate



Relevant Past ARSET Trainings

ARSET Health and Air Quality Trainings

- Introductory Level: [Fundamentals of Remote Sensing](#) (self-paced interactive online course)
- Introductory Level: [High Temporal Resolution Air Quality Observations from Space](#) (2018)
- Introductory Level: [An Inside Look at how NASA Measures Air Pollution](#) (2020)
- Introductory Level: [Fundamentals of Machine Learning for Earth Science](#) (2023)
- Intermediate Level: [Satellite Observations and Tools for Fire Risk, Detection, and Analysis](#) (2021)
- Intermediate Level: [Accessing and Analyzing Air Quality Data from Geostationary Satellites](#) (2022)
- Intermediate Level: [Satellite Remote Sensing for Equity & Environmental Justice](#) (2023)
- Advanced Level: [High Resolution NO₂ Monitoring From Space with TROPOMI](#) (2019)
- Advanced Level: [MODIS to VIIRS Transition for Air Quality Applications](#) (2020)
- Advanced Level: [Introduction and Access to Global Air Quality Forecasting Data and Tools](#) (2021)
- Advanced Level: [Tools for Analyzing NASA Air Quality Model Output](#) (2022)



EARTHDATA Offers

The Air Quality Data Pathfinder for Your Research & Applications

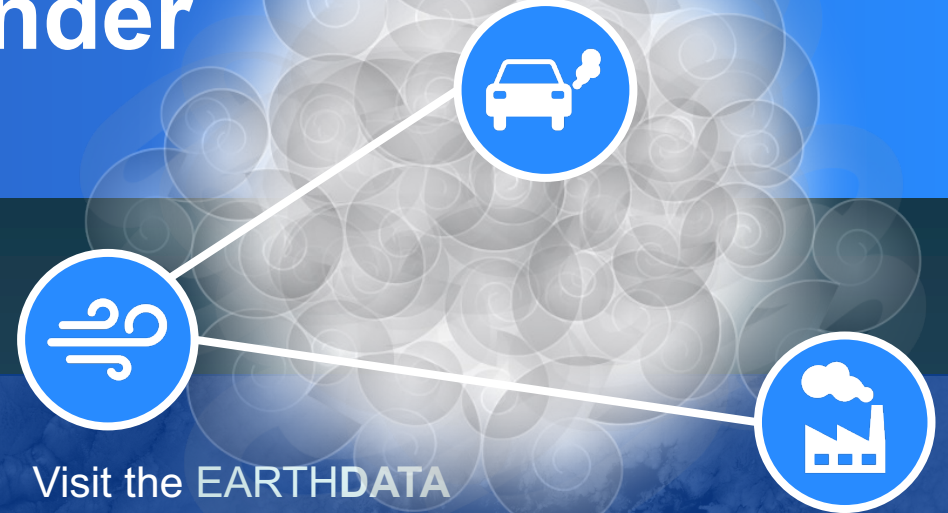
Air pollution is one of the largest global environmental and health threats. NASA provides data resources to better understand the movement of pollutants and the impact of events leading to poor air quality. This Pathfinder helps you access, and leverage data acquired from NASA's satellite, airborne, and ground-based missions and campaigns.

Available Data Types:

- Aerosols
- Trace Gases (e.g., Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, etc.)
- Weather (e.g., Air Temperature, Clouds, Precipitation, etc.)
- Land Surface (e.g., Soil Moisture, Surface Reflectance, Topography, etc.)
- Human Dimensions

Data are from satellites, airborne and ground-based platforms, and models, including:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| • AIRS | • OMPS |
| • AMSR2 | • SMAP |
| • GPM | • TROPOMI |
| • MODIS | • VIIRS |
| • OLI/TIRS | • GEOS |
| • OMI | • MERRA-2 |



Visit the **EARTHDATA**
Air Quality Data Pathfinder
for more information:

- Commonly Used Datasets for Air Quality Research and Applications
- Tools for Using Data
- Resources for Applying and Connecting NASA Data
- GIS Resources
- Tips for Getting Help and Connecting with NASA experts
- Tutorials and more!



Health and Air Quality Applied Science Team (HAQAST)

<https://haqast.org/>

“Our goal is to use NASA’s data and satellites to pursue cutting edge applied research in order to keep you healthy and safe.”

- Use NASA satellite & other data to help solve real-world public health and air quality problems.
- Work around the world on diverse issues related to health and air quality.
- Collaborate with public stakeholders to help guide long-term research.
- “Tiger Teams” pursue short-term, high-impact projects in small groups.



Getting started with NASA satellite data
for health and air quality:

<https://haqast.org/getting-started/>

Takeaways

- Satellite data can be useful for filling in gaps in our understanding of surface air quality.
- However, satellites do not directly measure air quality; it might be inferred indirectly using satellite data and other information.
- Many free resources exist to access, visualize, and interpret satellite and satellite-derived data.
- Training and community resources: [NASA ARSET](#), [HAQAST](#).



Thank You!